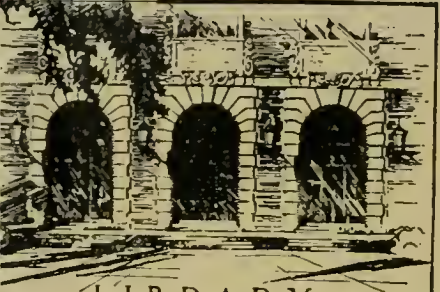

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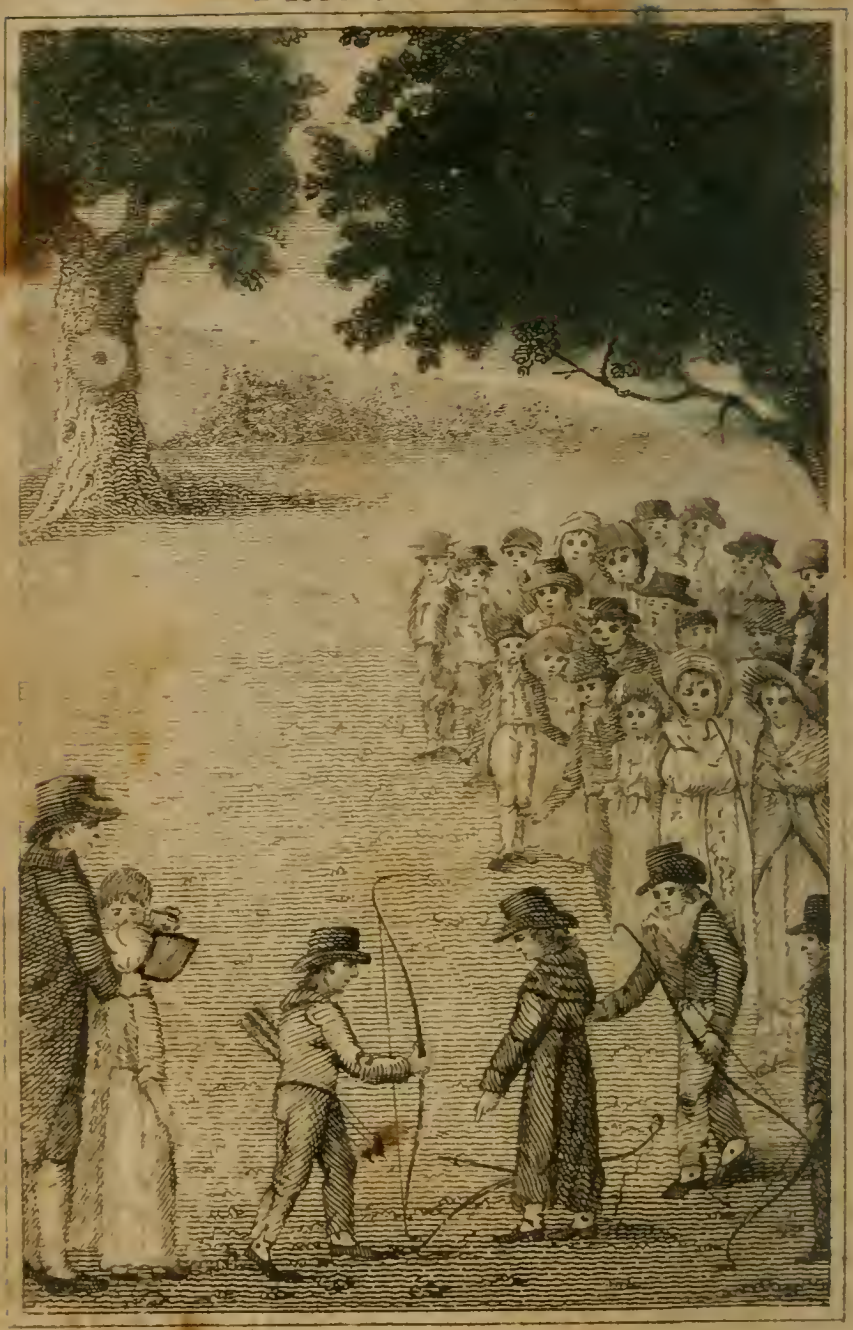

Mary and Francis

THE

PARENT'S ASSISTANT;

OR,

STORIES FOR CHILDREN.

BY MARIA EDGEWORTH,

AUTHOR OF PRACTICAL EDUCATION, AND LETTERS FOR LITERARY LADIES.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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THE BASKET-WOMAN.

'Toute leur étude êtoit de se complaire et de s'entr'aider.'

PAUL & VIRGINIE.

Their whole study was how to please and to help one another.

AT the foot of a steep, slippery, white hill, near Dunstable in Bedfordshire, called Chalk-hill, there is a hut, or rather a hovel, which travellers could scarcely suppose could be inhabited, if they did not see the smoke rising from its peaked roof. An old woman lives in this hovel, and with her a little boy and girl, the children of a beggar, who died and left these orphans perishing with hunger: they thought themselves very happy the first time the good old woman took them into her hut, bid them warm themselves at her small fire, and gave them a crust of mouldy bread to eat: she had not much to give: but what she had, she gave with

good-will. She was very kind to these poor children, and worked hard at her spinning wheel, and at her knitting, to support herself and them. She earned money also in another way: she used to follow all the carriages as they went up Chalk-hill; and when the horses stopped to take breath, or to rest themselves, she put stones behind the carriage-wheels, to prevent them from rolling backwards down the steep, slippery hill.

The little boy and girl loved to stand beside the good-natured old woman's spinning-wheel, when she was spinning, and to talk to her. At these times she taught them something, which, she said, she hoped they would remember all their lives: she explained to them what is meant by telling the truth, and what it is to be honest: she taught them to dislike idleness, and to wish that they could be useful.

One evening, as they were standing beside her, the little boy said to her, 'Grandmother,'—for that was the name by which she liked that these children should call her—'Grandmother, how often you are forced to get up from your spinning-wheel, and to follow the chaises and coaches up that steep hill, to put stones under the wheels, to hinder them from rolling back: the people who

are in the carriages give you a halfpenny or a penny for doing this, don't they?'

'Yes, child.'

'But it is very hard work for you to go up and down that hill; you often say that you are tired, and then you know that you cannot spin all that time; now if we might go up the hill, and put the stones behind the wheels, you could sit still at your work; and would not the people give us the halfpence? and could not we bring them all to you? Do, pray dear grandmother, try us for one day—to-morrow, will you?'

'Yes,' said the old woman, 'I will try what you can do; but I must go up the hill along with you for the two or three first times, for fear you should get yourselves hurt.' So the next day the little boy and girl went with their grandmother, as they used to call her, up the steep hill; and she shewed the boy how to prevent the wheels from rolling back, by putting stones behind them; and she said, 'This is called scotching the wheels;' and she took off the boy's hat, and gave it to the little girl to hold up to the carriage-windows, ready for the halfpence. When she thought that the children knew how to manage by themselves, she left them, and returned to her spinning-wheel.

A great many carriages happened to go by this day, and the little girl received a great many halfpence: she carried them all in her brother's hat to her grandmother, in the evening; and the old woman smiled, and thanked the children; she said that they had been useful to her, and that her spinning had gone on finely, because she had been able to sit still at her wheel all day—'But Paul, my boy,' said she, 'what is the matter with your hand?'

'Only a pinch, only one pinch that I got, as I was putting a stone behind the wheel of a chaise: it does not hurt me much, grandmother; and I've thought of a good thing for to-morrow: I shall never be hurt again, if you will only be so good as to give me the old handle of the broken crutch, grandmother, and the block of wood that lies in the chimney-corner, and that is of no use: I'll make it of some use, if I may have it.'

'Take it then dear,' said the old woman; 'and you'll find the handle of the broken crutch under my bed.'

Paul went to work immediately, and fastened one end of the pole into the block of wood, so as to make something like a dry-rubbing brush. 'Look, grandmamma, look

at my *scotcher:* I call this thing my *scotcher*,' said Paul, 'because I shall always scotch the wheels with it. I shall never pinch my fingers again; my hands, you see, will be safe at the end of this long stick, and, sister Anne, you need not be at the trouble of carrying any more stones after me up the hill; we shall never want stones any more; my scotcher will do without any thing else, I hope. I wish it was morning, and that a carriage would come, that I might run up the hill, and try my scotcher.'

'And I wish that as many chaises may go by to-morrow as there did to-day, and that we may bring you as many halfpence too grandmother,' said the little girl.

'So do I, my dear Anne,' said the old woman; for I mean that you and your brother shall have all the money that you get to-morrow; you may buy some gingerbread for yourselves, or some of those ripe plums that you saw at the fruit-stall, the other day, which is just going into Dunstable. I told you then, that I could not afford to buy such things for you; but now that you can earn halfpence for yourselves, children, it is fair you should taste a ripe plum and a bit of gingerbread for once in your lives, and away, dears.'

'We'll bring some of the gingerbread home to her, shan't we, brother?' whispered little Anne. The morning came; but no carriages were heard, though Paul and his sister had risen at five o'clock, that they might be sure to be ready for early travellers. Paul kept his scotcher poised upon his shoulder, and watched eagerly at his station at the bottom of the hill: he did not wait long before a carriage came. He followed it up the hill; and the instant the postillion called to him, and bid him stop the wheels, he put his scotcher behind them, and found that it answered the purpose perfectly well. Many carriages went by this day; and Paul and Anne, received a great many halfpence from the travellers. When it grew dusk in the evening, Anne said to her brother, 'I don't think any more carriages will come by to day: let us count the halfpence, and carry them home now to grandmother.'

'No, not yet,' answered Paul, 'let them alone, let them lie still in the hole where I have put them: I dare say more carriages will come by before it is quite dark, and then we shall have more halfpence. Paul had taken the halfpence out of his hat, and he had put them into a hole in the high bank

by the road side; and Anne said that she would not meddle with them, and that she would wait till her brother liked to count them; and Paul said, 'If you will stay and watch here, I will go and gather some black-berries for you in the hedge in yonder field; stand you hereabouts, half-way up the hill; and the moment you see any carriage coming along the road, run as fast as you can, and call me.'

Anne waited a long time, or what she thought a long time, and she saw no carriage; and she trailed her brother's scotcher up and down till she was tired; then she stood still, and looked again, and she saw no carriage; so she went sorrowfully into the field, and to the hedge where her brother was gathering black-berries, and she said, 'Paul, I'm sadly tired; *sadly tired!*' said she, 'and my eyes are quite strained with looking for chaises; no more chaises will come to night, and your scotcher is lying there, of no use, upon the ground. Have not I waited long enough for to-day, Paul?'

'O, no,' said Paul, 'here are some black-berries for you; you had better wait a little bit longer; perhaps a carriage might go by whilst you are standing here talking to me.

Anne, who was of a very obliging temper, and who liked to do what she was asked to do, went back to the place where the scotcher lay; and scarcely had she reached the spot, when she heard the noise of a carriage. She ran to call her brother; and, to their great joy, they now saw four chaises coming towards them. Paul, as soon as they went up the hill, followed with his scotcher; first he scotched the wheels of one carriage, then of another; and Anne was so much delighted with observing how well the scotcher stopped the wheels, and how much better it was than stones, that she forgot to go and hold her brother's hat to the travellers for halfpence, till she was roused by the voice of a little rosy girl, who was looking out of the window of one of the chaises. 'Come close to the chaise-door,' said the little girl, 'here are some halfpence for you.'

Anne held the hat; and she afterwards went on to the other carriages; money was thrown to her from each of them; and when they had all gotten safely to the top of the hill, she and her brother sat down upon a large stone by the road-side, to count their treasure. First they began by counting what was in the hat—'One, two, three, four, halfpence.'

'But O, brother, look at this!' exclaimed Anne; 'this is not the same as the other halfpence.'

'No indeed, it is not,' cried Paul; 'it is no halfpenny; it is a guinea, a bright golden guinea!'

'Is it?' said Anne, who had never seen a guinea in her life before, and who did not know its value; 'and will it do as well as a halfpenny to buy gingerbread? I'll run to the fruit-stall, and ask the woman? Shall I?'

'No, no,' said Paul, 'you need not ask any woman, or any body but me; I can tell you all about it, as well as any body in the whole world.'

'The whole world! O, Paul, you forget! not so well as my grandmother.'

'Why, not so well as my grandmother, perhaps; but Anne, I can tell you that you must not talk yourself, Anne; but you must listen to me quietly, or else you won't understand what I am going to tell you; for I can assure you that I don't think I quite understood it myself, Anne, the first time my grandmother told it to me, though I stood stock still, listening my best.'

Prepared by this speech to hear something very difficult to be understood, Anne looked very grave; and her brother explained

to her, that, with a guinea, she might buy two hundred and fifty two times as many plums as she could get for a penny.

'Why, Paul, you know the fruit-woman said she would give us a dozen plums for a penny. Now for this little guinea would she give us two hundred and fifty-two dozen?'

'If she has so many, and if we like to have so many, to be sure she will,' said Paul; 'but I think we should not like to have two hundred and fifty-two dozen of plums; we could not eat such a number.'

'But we could give some of them to my grandmother,' said Anne.

'But still there would be too many for her, and for us too,' said Paul; 'and when we had eaten the plums, there would be an end of all the pleasure; but now I'll tell you what I am thinking of, Anne, that we might buy something for my grandmother, that would be very useful to her indeed, with this guinea; something that would last a great while.'

'What, brother? what sort of thing?'

'Something that she said she wanted very much last winter, when she was so ill of the rheumatism; something that she said yesterday when you were making her bed, she

wished she might be able to buy before next winter.'

'I know! I know what you mean,' said Anne, 'a blanket. O, yes, Paul, that will be much better than plums; do let us buy a blanket for her; how glad she will be to see it. I will make her bed with the new blanket, and then bring her to look at it. But, Paul, how shall we buy a blanket? where are blankets to be got?'

'Leave that to me, I'll manage that—I know where blankets can be got; I saw one hanging out of a shop the day I went last to Dunstable.'

'You have seen a great many things at Dunstable, brother.'

'Yes, a great many; but I never saw anything there, or any where else, that I wished for half so much as I did for that blanket for my grandmother. Do you remember how she used to shiver with the cold last winter? I'll buy the blanket to-morrow, I'm going to Dunstable with her spinning.'

'And you'll bring the blanket to me, and I shall make the bed very neatly, that will be all right! all happy!' said Anne, clapping her hands.

'But stay! hush! don't clap your hands so, Anne; it will not be all happy, I'm

afraid,' said Paul, and his countenance changed, and he looked very grave. 'It will not be all right, I'm afraid, for there is one thing we have neither of us thought of, but that we ought to think about. We cannot buy the blanket, I'm afraid.'

'Why Paul? why?'

'Because I don't think this guinea is honestly ours.'

'Nay, brother, but I'm sure it is honestly ours; it was given to us, and grandmother said all that was given to us to-day was to be our own.'

'But who gave it to you, Anne?'

'Some of the people in those chaises, Paul; I don't know which of them, but I dare say it was the little rosy girl.'

'No,' said Paul, 'for when she called you to the chaise door, she said, 'here's some halfpence for you.' Now, if she gave you the guinea, she must have given it to you by mistake.'

'Well, but perhaps some of the people in the other chaises gave it to me, and did not give it to me by mistake, Paul. There was a gentleman reading in one of the chaises, and a lady who looked very good-naturedly at me, and then the gentleman put down his book, and put his head out of the

window, and looked at your scotcher, brother, and he asked me, if that was your own making; and when I said yes, and that I was your sister, he smiled at me, and put his hand into his waistcoat pocket, and threw a handful of halfpence into the hat, and I dare say he gave us the guinea along with them, because he liked your scotcher so much.'

'Why,' said Paul, 'that might be to be sure, but I wish I was quite certain of it.'

'Then, as we are not quite certain, had not we best go and ask my grandmother what she thinks about it?'

Paul thought this was excellent advice, and he was not a silly boy, who did not like to follow good advice: he went with his sister directly to his grandmother, shewed her the guinea, and told her how they came by it.

'My dear, honest children,' said she, 'I am very glad you told me all this; I am very glad that you did not buy either the plums or the blanket with this guinea; I'm sure it is not honestly ours; those who threw it to you, gave it by mistake, I warrant; and what I would have you do is to go to Dunstable, and try if you can, at either of the inns, find out the person who

gave it to you. It is now so late in the evening, that perhaps the travellers will sleep at Dunstable instead of going on the next stage; and it is likely, that whosoever gave you a guinea instead of a halfpenny, has found out their mistake by this time. All you can do, is, to go and inquire for the gentleman who was reading in the chaise.'

'O!' interrupted Paul, 'I know a good way of finding him out; I remember it was a dark green chaise with red wheels: and I remember I read the inn-keeper's name upon the chaise, '*John Nelson.*' (I am much obliged to you for teaching me to read, grandmother.) You told me yesterday, grandmother, that the names written upon chaises are the names of the inn-keepers to whom they belong. I read the name of the inn-keeper upon that chaise: it was John Nelson. So Anne and I will go to both the inns in Dunstable, and try to find out this chaise—John Nelson's—come, Anne, let us set out before it gets quite dark.'

Anne and her brother passed with great courage the tempting stall that was covered with gingerbread and ripe plums, and pursued their way steadily through the street of Dunstable; but Paul, when he came to the shop where he had seen the blanket, stopped

for a moment, and said, 'It is a great pity, Anne, that the guinea is not ours; however, we are doing what is honest, and that is a comfort. Here, we must go through this gate-way, into the inn-yard; we are come to the Dun Cow.'

'Cow!' said Anne, 'I see no cow.'

'Look up, and you'll see the cow over your head,' said Paul—'the sign—the picture. Come, never mind looking at it now: I want to find out the green chaise that has John Nelson's name upon it.'

Paul pushed forward, through a crowded passage, till he got into the inn-yard; there was a great noise and bustle, the hostlers were carrying in luggage, the postillions were rubbing down their horses, or rolling the chaises into the coach-house.

'What now? What business have you here, pray?' said a waiter, who almost ran over Paul, as he was crossing the yard in a great hurry to get some empty bottles from the bottle-rack. 'You've no business here, crowding up the yard; walk off, young gentleman, if you please.'

'Pray give me leave sir, said Paul, to stay a few minutes, to look amongst these chaises for one dark green chaise with red wheels,

that has Mr. John Nelson's name written upon it.'

'What's that he says about a dark green chaise?' said one of the postillions.

'What should such a one as he is know about chaises?' interrupted the hasty waiter; and he was going to turn Paul out of the yard; but the hostler caught hold of his arm, and said, 'May be the child *has* some business here; let's know what he has to say for himself.'

The waiter was at this instant luckily obliged to leave them to attend the bell; and Paul told his business to the hostler, who, as soon as he saw the guinea, and heard the story, shook Paul by the hand, and said, 'Stand steady, my honest lad; I'll find the chaise for you, if it is to be found here; but John Nelson's chaises almost always drive to the Black Bull.'

After some difficulty, the green chaise with John Nelson's name upon it, and the postillion who drove that chaise, were found; and the postillion told Paul, that he was just going into the parlour to the gentleman he had driven, to be paid, and that he would carry the guinea with him.

'No,' said Paul, 'we should like to give it back ourselves.'

'Yes,' said the hostler, 'that they have a right to do.'

The postillion made no reply, but looked vexed, and went on towards the house, desiring the children would wait in the passage till his return.

In the passage there was standing a decent, clean, good-natured looking woman, with two huge straw baskets on each side of her. One of the baskets stood a little in the way of the entrance. A man who was pushing his way in, and carried in his hand a string of dead larks hung to a pole, impatient at being stopped, kicked down the straw basket; and all its contents were thrown out: bright straw hats, and boxes, and slippers, were all thrown in disorder upon the dirty ground.

'O, they will be trampled upon! they will be all spoiled!' exclaimed the woman to whom they belonged.

'We'll help you to pick them up, if you will let us,' cried Paul and Anne; and they immediately ran to her assistance.

When the things were all safe in the basket again, the children expressed a great desire to know how such beautiful things could be made of straw; but the woman had not time to answer them, before the

postillion came out of the parlour, and with him a gentleman's servant, who came to Paul, and, clapping him upon the back, said, 'So, my little chap, I gave you a guinea for a halfpenny, I hear; and I understand you've brought it back again—that's right—give me hold of it.'

'No, brother,' said Anne; 'this is not the gentleman that was reading.'

'Pooh! child, I came in Mr. Nelson's green chaise. Here's the postillion can tell you so. I and my master came in that chaise. It was my master that was reading, as you say, and it was he that threw the money out to you; he is going to bed; he is tired, and can't see you himself: he desires that you'll give me the guinea.'

Paul was too honest himself to suspect that this man was telling him a falsehood; and he now readily produced his bright guinea, and delivered it into the servant's hands.

'Here's sixpence a piece for you, children,' said he, 'and good night to you.' He pushed them towards the door; but the basket-woman whispered to them as they went out, 'Wait in the street till I come to you.'

'Pray, Mrs. Landlady,' cried this gentleman's servant, addressing himself to the

landlady, who just then came out of a room where some company were at supper, 'Pray, Mrs. Landlady, please to let me have roasted larks for my supper. You are famous for larks at Dunstable, and I make it a rule to taste the best of every thing, wherever I go; and, waiter, let me have a bottle of claret, do you hear?'

'Larks and claret for his supper!' said the basket-woman to herself, as she looked at him from head to foot. The postillion was still waiting, as if to speak to him; and she observed them afterwards whispering and laughing together. '*No bad hit*,' was a sentence which the servant pronounced several times.

Now it occurred to the basket-woman, that this man had cheated the children out of the guinea to pay for the larks and claret; and she thought that perhaps she could discover the truth. She waited quietly in the passage.

'Waiter! Joe! Joe!' cried the landlady, 'why don't you carry in the sweetmeat puffs and the tarts here to the company in the best parlour?'

'Coming, ma'am,' answered the waiter; and with a large dish of tarts and puffs the waiter came from the bar; the landlady

threw open the door of the best parlour, to let him in; and the basket-woman had now a full view of a large, cheerful company, and amongst them several children sitting round a supper-table.

'Aye,' whispered the landlady, as the door closed after the waiter and the tarts, 'there are customers enough, I warrant, for you in that room, if you had but the luck to be called in. Pray what would you have the conscience, I wonder now, to charge me for these here half dozen little mats, to put under my dishes?'

'A trifle, ma'am,' said the basket-woman: she let the landlady have the mats cheap; and the landlady then declared she would step in and see if the company in the best parlour had done supper. 'When they come to their wine,' added she, 'I'll speak a good word for you, and get you called in afore the children are sent to bed.'

The landlady, after the usual speech of '*I hope the supper and every thing is to your liking, ladies and gentlemen*,' began with 'If any of the young gentlemen or ladies would have a *cur'osity* to see any of our famous Dunstable straw-work, there's a decent body without, would, I dare say, be proud to shew

them her pincushion-boxes, and her baskets and slippers, and her other *cur'osities*.'

The eyes of the children all turned towards their mother, their mother smiled, and immediately their father called in the basket-woman, and desired her to produce her *curiosities*. The children gathered round her large pannier as it opened; but they did not touch any of her things.

'O, papa!' cried a little rosy girl, 'here are a pair of straw slippers that would just fit you, I think; but would not straw shoes wear out very soon? and would not they let in the wet?'

'Yes, my dear,' said her father, 'but these slippers are meant——'

'For powdering slippers, miss,' interrupted the basket-woman.

'To wear when people are powdering their hair,' continued the gentleman, 'that they may not spoil their other shoes.'

'And will you buy them, papa?'

'No: I cannot indulge myself,' said her father, 'in buying them now; I must make amends,' said he, laughing, 'for my carelessness; and as I threw away a guinea to day, I must endeavour to save six-pence at least.'

'Ah! the guinea that you threw by mistake into the little girl's hat, as we were

coming up Chalk-hill. Mamma, I wonder that the little girl did not take notice of its being a guinea, and that she did not run after the chaise to give it back again. I should think, if she had been an honest girl, she would have returned it.'

'Miss! Ma'am! Sir!' said the basket-woman, 'if it would not be impertinent, may I speak a word? A little boy and girl have just been here inquiring for a gentleman who gave them a guinea instead of a halfpenny, by mistake; and not five minutes ago, I saw the boy give the guinea to a gentleman's servant, who is there without, and who said his master desired it should be returned to him.'

'There must be some mistake, or some trick in this,' said the gentleman; 'are the children gone? I must see them—send after them.'

'I'll go for them myself,' said the good-natured basket-woman; 'I bid them wait in the street yonder, for my mind misgave me that the man who spoke so short to them was a cheat—with his larks and his claret.'

Paul and Anne were speedily summoned, and brought back by their friend the basket-woman; and Anne, the moment she saw the gentleman, knew that he was the very person who smiled upon her, who admired her

brother's scotcher, and who threw a handful of halfpence into the hat; but she could not be certain, she said, that she received the guinea from him; she only thought it was most likely that she did.

'But I can be certain whether the guinea you returned be mine or no,' said the gentleman; 'I marked the guinea; it was a light one; the only light guinea I had, which I put into my waistcoat pocket this morning.'

He rang the bell, and desired the waiter to let the gentleman who was in the room opposite to him know that he wished to see him.

'The gentleman in the white parlour, sir, do you mean?'

'I mean the master of the servant who received a guinea from this child.'

'He is a Mr. Pembroke, sir,' said the waiter.

Mr. Pembroke came; and as soon as he heard what had happened, he desired the waiter to shew him to the room where his servant was at supper.

The dishonest servant, who was supping upon larks and claret, knew nothing of what was going on; but his knife and fork dropped from his hand, and he overturned a bumper of claret, as he started up from table, in great surprise and terror, when his

master came in, with a face of indignation, and demanded '*the guinea—the guinea sir!* that you got from this child—that guinea which you said I ordered you to ask for from this child.'

The servant, confounded and half intoxicated, could only stammer out that he had more guineas than one about him, and that he really did not know which it was. He pulled his money out, and spread it upon the table with trembling hands. The marked guinea appeared. His master instantly turned him out of his service, with strong expressions of contempt.

'And now, my little honest girl,' said the gentleman who had admired her brother's scotcher, turning to Anne, 'and now tell me whom you are, and what you and your brother want or wish for most in the world.'

In the same moment, Anne and Paul exclaimed, 'the thing we wish for most in the world is a blanket for our grandmother.'

'She is not our grandmother in reality, I believe, sir, said Paul; but she is just as good to us, and taught me to read, and taught Anne to knit, and taught us both that we should be honest, so she has—and I wish she had a new blanket before next winter, to keep her from the cold and the rheuma-

tism. She had the rheumatism sadly last winter, sir; and there is a blanket in this street that would be just the thing for her.'

'She shall have it, then; and' continued the gentleman, 'I will do something more for you. Do you like to be employed or to be idle best?'

'We like to have something to do always, if we could, sir,' said Paul; 'but we are forced to be idle sometimes, because grandmother has not always things for us to do that we *can* do well.'

'Should you like to learn how to make such baskets as these?' said the gentleman, pointing to one of the Dunstable straw-baskets.

'O, very much!' said Paul.

'Very much!' said Anne.

'Then I should like to teach you how to make them,' said the basket-woman; 'for I'm sure of one thing—that you'd behave honestly to me.'

The gentleman put a guinea into the good-natured basket-woman's hand, and told her, that he knew she could not afford to teach them her trade for nothing. 'I shall come through Dunstable again in a few months,' added he; 'and I hope to see that you and your scholars are going on well. If I find

that they are, I will do something more for you.'

'But,' said Anne, 'we must tell all this to grandmother, and ask her about it; and I'm afraid—though I'm very happy—that it is getting very late, and that we should not stay here any longer.'

'It is a fine moonlight night,' said the basket-woman, 'and it is not far; I'll walk with you, and see you safe home myself.'

The gentleman detained them a few minutes longer, till a messenger, whom he had dispatched to purchase the much-wished-for blanket, returned.

'Your grandmother will sleep well upon this good blanket, I hope,' said the gentleman, as he gave it into Paul's opened arms; 'it has been obtained for her by the honesty of her adopted children.'

THE WHITE PIGEON.

THE little town of Somerville, in Ireland, has, within these few years, assumed the neat and cheerful appearance of an English village. Mr. Somerville, to whom this town belongs, wished to inspire his tenantry with a taste for order and domestic happiness, and took every means in his power t encourage industrious, well-behaved peop to settle in his neighbourhood. When had finished building a row of good sl houses in his town, he declared that he w set them to the best tenants he could and proposals were quickly sent to him f all parts of the country. By the best ten Mr. Somerville did not, however, mean best bidders; and many who had offe an extravagant price for the houses, surprised to find their proposals rej Amongst these was Mr. Cox, an ale keeper, who did not bear a very goo acter.

'Please your honour, sir,' said he, to Mr. Somerville, I *expected*, since I bid as fair and fairer for it than any other, that you would have set me the house next the apothecary's. Was not it fifteen guineas I mentioned in my proposal? and did not your honour give it against me for thirteen?'

'My honour did just so,' replied Mr. Somerville calmly.

'And please your honour, but I don't know what it is I or mine have done to offend you—I'm sure there's not a gentleman in all Ireland I'd go farther to sarve. Would not I go to Cork to-morrow for the least word from your honour?'

'I am much obliged to you Mr. Cox, I have no business at Cork, at present,' wered Mr. Somerville, drily.

It is all I wish,' exclaimed Mr. Cox, at I could find out and light upon the n that has belied me to your honour.'

No man has belied you, Mr. Cox; but ur nose belies you much, if you do not drinking a little; and your black eye ut chin bely you much, if you do not quarrelling a little.'

uarrel! I quarrel, please your honour! any man or set of men, ten mile round, ve such a thing; and I'm ready to fight

him that dares to say the like of me; I'd fight him here in your honour's presence, if he'd only come out this minute, and meet me like a man.'

Here Mr. Cox put himself into a boxing attitude, but observing that Mr. Somerville looked at his threatening gesture with a smile, and that several people, who had gathered round him as he stood in the street, laughed at the proof he gave of his peaceable disposition, he changed his attitude, and went on to vindicate himself against the charge of drinking.

'And as to drink, please your honour—there's no truth in it. Not a drop of whiskey, good or bad, have I touched these six months, except what I took with Jemmy M'Doole the night I had the misfortune to meet your honour coming home from the fair of Ballynagrish.

To this speech Mr. Somerville made no answer, but turned away to look at the bow window of a handsome new inn, which the glazier was at this instant glazing.

'Please your honour, that new inn is not set, I hear, as yet,' resumed Mr. Cox; 'if your honour recollects, you promised to make me a compliment of it, last Seraphtide was twelve-month.'

'Impossible!' cried Mr. Somerville, 'for I had no thoughts of building an inn at that time.'

'O, I beg your honour's pardon; but if you'd be just pleased to recollect, it was coming through the gap in the bog-meadows, *forenent* Thady O'Connor, you made me the promise. I'll leave it to him, so I will.'

'But I will not leave it to him, I assure you,' cried Mr. Somerville; 'I never made any such promise: I never thought of setting this inn to you.'

'Then your honour won't let me have it?'

'No. You have told me a dozen falsehoods. I do not wish to have you for a tenant.'

'Well, God bless your honour; I've no more to say, but God bless your honour,' said Mr. Cox; and he walked away, muttering to himself, as he slouched his hat over his face, 'I hope I'll live to be revenged on him!'

Mr. Somerville, the next morning, went with his family to look at the new inn, which he expected to see perfectly finished; but he was met by the carpenter, who, with a rueful face, informed him, that six panes of glass in the large bow window had been broken during the night.

'Ha! perhaps Mr. Cox has broken my windows, in revenge for my refusing to let him my house,' said Mr. Somerville; and many of the neighbours, who knew the malicious character of this Mr. Cox, observed that this was like one of his tricks.

A boy of about twelve years old, however, stepped forward and said, 'I don't like Mr. Cox, I'm sure; for once he beat me, when he was drunk; but, for all that, no one should be accused wrongfully; he *could* not be the person, that broke these windows last night, for he was six miles off: he slept at his cousin's last night, and he has not returned home yet; so I think he knows nothing of the matter.'

Mr. Somerville was pleased with the honest simplicity of this boy, and observing that he looked in eagerly at the stair-case, when the house-door was opened, he asked him whether he should like to go in, and see the new house.

'Yes sir,' said the boy, 'I should like to go up those stairs, and see what I should come to.'

'Up with you then!' said Mr. Somerville: and the boy ran up the stairs. He went from room to room with great expressions of admiration and delight; at length,

as he was examining one of the garrets, he was startled by a fluttering noise over his head; and looking up, he saw a white pigeon, who, frightened at his appearance, began to fly round and round the room, till it found its way out of the door, and it flew into the stair-case. The carpenter was speaking to Mr. Somerville upon the landing-place of the stairs; but, the moment he spied the white pigeon, he broke off in the midst of a speech about *the nose* of the stairs, and exclaimed, 'There he is please your honour! there's he that has done all the damage to our bow window—that's the very same wicked white pigeon, that broke the church windows last Sunday was se'nnight; but he's down for it now; we have him safe, and I'll chop his head off, as he deserves, this minute.'

'Stay! O stay! don't chop his head off: he does not deserve it,' cried the boy, who came running out of the garret with the greatest eagerness. '*I* broke your window, sir,' said he to Mr. Somerville; 'I broke your window with this ball; but I did not know, that I had done it, till this moment, I assure you, or I should have told you before. Don't chop his head off,' added the

boy to the carpenter, who had now the white pigeon in his hands.

'No,' said Mr. Somerville, 'the pigeon's head shall not be chopped off, nor yours neither, my good boy, for breaking a window. I am persuaded, by your open, honest countenance, that you are speaking the truth; but pray explain this matter to us; for you have not made it quite clear—how happened it that you could break my windows without knowing it? and how came you to find it out at last?'

'Sir,' said the boy, 'if you'll come up here, I'll show you all I know, and how I came to know, it.'

Mr. Somerville followed him into the garret; and the boy pointed to a pane of glass, that was broken in a small window that looked out upon a piece of waste ground behind the house; upon this piece of waste ground the children of the village often used to play. 'We were playing there at ball yesterday evening,' continued the boy, addressing himself to Mr. Somerville, 'and one of the lads challenged me to hit a mark in the wall, which I did; but he said I did not hit it, and bade me give him up my ball as the forfeit. This I would not do; and when he began to wrestle with me for it, I

threw the ball, as I thought, over the house. He ran to look for it in the street, but could not find it, which I was very glad of; but I was very sorry just now, to find it myself, lying upon this heap of shavings, sir, under this broken window; for, as soon as I saw it lying there, I knew I must have been the person that broke the window; and through this window came the white pigeon: here's one of his white feathers sticking in the gap.'

'Yes,' said the carpenter, 'and in the bow-window-room below there's plenty of his feathers to be seen; for I've just been down to look: it was the pigeon broke *them* windows, sure enough.'

'But he could not have got in if I had not broke this little window,' said the boy eagerly; and I am able to earn six-pence a day, and I'll pay for all the mischief and welcome. The white pigeon belongs to a poor neighbour, a friend of ours who is very fond of him; and I would not have him killed for twice as much money.'

'Take the pigeon, my honest, generous lad,' said Mr. Somerville, 'and carry him back to your neighbour. I forgive him all the mischief he has done me, tell your friend, for your sake. As to the rest, we

can have the windows mended; and do you keep all the sixpences you earn for yourself.'

'That's what he never did yet,' said the carpenter; 'many's the sixpence he earns, but not a halfpenny goes into his own pocket; it goes every farthing to his poor father and mother. Happy for them to have such a son!'

'More happy for him to have such a father and mother,' exclaimed the boy; 'their good days, they took all the best care of me, that was to be had for love or money, and would, if I would let them, go on paying for my schooling now, falling as they be in the world; but I must learn to mind the shop now. Good morning to you, sir; and thank you kindly,' said he to Mr. Somerville.

'And where does this boy live, and who are his father and mother? they cannot live in town,' said Mr. Somerville, 'or I should have heard of them.'

'They are but just come into the town, please your honour,' said the carpenter; they lived formerly upon Counsellor O'Donnel's estate; but they were ruined, please your honour, by taking a joint lease with a man who fell afterwards into bad company, ran out all he had, so could not pay the landlord; and these poor people were forced to

pay his share and their own too, which almost ruined them: they were obliged to give up the land; and now they have furnished a little shop in this town, with what goods they could afford to buy with the money they got by the sale of their cattle and stock. They have the good-will of all who know them; and I am sure I hope they will do well. The boy is very ready in the shop, though he said only that he could earn sixpence a day; he writes a good hand, and is quick at casting up accounts, for his age. Besides, he is likely to do well in the world, because he is never in idle company; and I've known him since he was two foot high, and never heard of his telling a lie.'

'This is an excellent character of the boy, indeed,' said Mr. Somerville; 'and from his behaviour this morning, I am inclined to think, that he deserves all your praises.' Mr. Somerville resolved to enquire more fully concerning this poor family, and to attend to their conduct himself; fully determined to assist them, if he should find them such as they had been represented.

In the mean time, this boy, whose name was Brian O'Neill, went to return the white pigeon to its owner.

'You have saved its life,' said the woman

to whom it belonged, 'and I'll make you a present of it.' Brian thanked her; and he from that day began to grow fond of the pigeon. He always took care to scatter some oats for it in his father's yard; and the pigeon grew so tame at last, that it would hop about the kitchen, and eat off the same trencher with the dog.*

Brian, after the shop was shut up at night, used to amuse himself with reading some little books, which the schoolmaster, who formerly taught him arithmetic, was so good as to lend him. Amongst these, he one evening met with a little book full of the history of birds and beasts; he looked immediately to see whether the pigeon was mentioned amongst the birds; and, to his great joy, he found a full description and history of his favourite bird.

'So, Brian, I see your schooling has not been thrown away upon you; you like your book, I see, when you have no master over you to bid you read,' said his father, when he came in and saw Brian reading this book very attentively.

'Thank you for having me taught to read, father,' said Brian; 'here I've made a great discovery: I've found out in this

* This is a fact.

book, little as it looks, father, a most curious way of making a fortune; and I hope it will make your fortune, father: and if you'll sit down, I'll tell it to you.'

Mr. O'Neill, in hopes of pleasing his son, rather than in the expectation of having his fortune made, immediately sat down to listen; and his son explained to him, that he had found in his book an account of pigeons who carried notes and letters; 'and, father,' continued Brian, 'I find my pigeon is of this sort; and I intend to make my pigeon carry messages: why should not he sir? If other pigeons have done so before him, I think he is as good, and I dare say will be as easy to teach, as any pigeon in the world, and I shall begin to teach him to-morrow morning; and then, father, you know people often pay a great deal for sending messengers; and no boy can run, no horse can gallop so fast as a bird can fly; therefore a bird must be the best messenger, and I should be paid the best price—hey, father?'

'To be sure, to be sure, my dear,' said his father, laughing; 'I wish you may make the best messenger in Ireland of your pigeon; but all I beg, my dear boy, is that you won't neglect our shop for your pigeon; for I've a notion, we have a better chance of

making a fortune by the shop, than by the white pigeon.'

Brian never neglected the shop, but at his leisure hours he amused himself with training his pigeon; and, after much patience, he at last succeeded so well, that one day he went to his father, and offered to send him word by his pigeon, what beef was a pound in the market of Ballynagrish, where he was going. 'The pigeon will be home long before me, father; and he will come in at the kitchen window, and light upon the dresser; then you must untie the little note which I shall have tied under his left wing, and you'll know the price of beef directly.'

The pigeon carried his message well; and Brian was much delighted with his success. He soon was employed by the neighbours, who were amused by Brian's fondness for his swift messenger; and soon the fame of the white pigeon was spread amongst all who frequented the markets and fairs of Somerville.'

At one of these fairs, a set of men of desperate fortunes met to drink, and to concert plans of robberies. Their place of meeting was at the ale-house of Mr. Cox, the man who, as our readers may remember, was offended by Mr. Somerville's hinting that he was fond of drinking and of quarrelling, and

who threatened vengeance for having been refused the new inn.

Whilst these men were talking over their schemes, one of them observed that one of their companions was not arrived; another said no; he's six miles off, said another; and a third wished that he could make him hear at that distance. This turned the discourse upon the difficulties of sending messages secretly and quickly. Cox's son, a lad of about nineteen, who was one of this gang, mentioned the white carrier pigeon, and he was desired to try all means to get it into his possession. Accordingly, the next day young Cox went to Brian O'Neill, and tried at first by persuasion, and afterwards by threats, to prevail upon him to give up the pigeon. Brian was resolute in his refusal, more especially when the petitioner began to bully him.

'If we can't have it by fair means, we will by foul,' said Cox; and a few days afterwards the pigeon was gone. Brian searched for it in vain, inquired from all the neighbours if they had seen it, and applied, but to no purpose, to Cox. He swore that he knew nothing about the matter; but this was false, for it was he, who during the night time had stolen the white pigeon; he

conveyed it to his employers, and they rejoiced that they had gotten it into their possession, as they thought it would serve them for a useful messenger.

Nothing can be more short-sighted than cunning. The very means, which these people took to secure secresy, were the means of bringing their plots to light. They endeavoured to teach the pigeon which they had stolen, to carry messages for them in a part of the country at some distance from Somerville; and when they fancied that it had forgotten its former habits, and its old master, they thought that they might venture to employ him nearer home. However, the pigeon had a better memory than they imagined. They loosed him from a bag near the town of Ballynagrish, in hopes that he would stop at the house of Cox's cousin, which was on the road between Ballynagrish and Somerville. But the pigeon, though he had been purposely fed at this house for a week before this trial, did not stop there, but flew on to his old master's house in Somerville, and pecked at the kitchen window, as he had formerly been taught to do. His master, fortunately, was within hearing, and poor Brian ran with the greatest joy to open the window, and to let him in.

'O father, here's my white pigeon come back of his own accord!' exclaimed Brian; 'I must run and show him to my mother.'

At this instant the pigeon spread his wings, and Brian discovered under one of its wings a small and very dirty looking billet; he opened it in his father's presence: the scrawl was scarcely legible, but these words were at length decyphered.

'Thare are eight of uz sworn; I send yo at botom thare names. We meat at tin this nite at my faders, and have harms and all in radiness to brak into the grate ouse. Mr. Summervill is to lye out to nite—kip the pigeon untill to-morrow. For ever yours,

MURTAGH COX, JUN.'

Scarcely had they finished reading this note, than both father and son exclaimed, 'Let us go and show it to Mr. Somerville.' Before they set out, they had however the prudence to secure the pigeon, so that he should not be seen by any one but themselves.

Mr. Somerville, in consequence of this fortunate discovery, took proper measures for the apprehension of the eight men who had sworn to rob his house; and when they were all safely lodged in the county gaol, he sent for Brian O'Neill and his father; and after thanking them for the service they had

done him, he counted out ten bright guineas upon a table, and pushed them towards Brian, saying, 'I suppose you know, that a reward of ten guineas was offered some weeks ago for the discovery of John Mac Dermod, one of the eight men whom we have just taken up.'

'No, sir,' said Brian; 'I did not know it, and I did not bring that note to you to get ten guineas; but because I thought it was right. I don't want to be paid for doing right.'

'That's my own boy,' said his father. 'We thank you sir, but we'll not take the money; *I don't like to take the price of blood.*'*

'I know the difference, my good friends,' said Mr. Somerville, 'between vile informers, and courageous, honest men.'

'Why, as to that, please your honour, though we are poor, I hope we are honest.'

'And what is more,' said Mr. Somerville, 'I have a notion, that you would continue to be honest, even if you were rich. Will you, my good lad,' continued Mr. Someville, after a moment's pause, 'will you trust me with your white pigeon a few days?'

* This answer was really given upon a similar occasion.

'O, and welcome, sir,' said the boy with a smile; and he brought the pigeon to Mr. Somerville when it was dark, and nobody saw him. A few days afterwards Mr. Somerville called at O'Neill's house, and bid him and his son follow him. They followed, till he stopped opposite to the bow window of the new inn. The carpenter had just put up a sign, which was covered over with a bit of carpeting.

'Go up the ladder, will you,' said Mr. Somerville to Brian, 'and pull that sign straight, for it hangs quite crooked. There, now it is straight. Now pull off the carpet, and let us see the new sign.'

The boy pulled off the cover, and saw a white pigeon painted upon the sign, and the name of O'Neill in large letters underneath.

'Take care you do not tumble down and break your neck upon this joyful occasion,' said Mr. Somerville, who saw that Brian's surprise was too great for his situation. 'Come down from the ladder, and wish your father joy of being master of the new inn called the White Pigeon. And I wish him joy of having such a son as you are. Those who bring up their children well will certainly be rewarded for it, be they poor or rich.

THE ORPHANS.

NEAR the ruins of the castle of Rossmore, in Ireland, is a small cabin, in which there once lived a widow and her four children. As long as she was able to work, she was very industrious, and was accounted the best spinner in the parish; but she overworked herself at last, and fell ill, so that she could not sit to her wheel as she used to do, and was obliged to give it up to her eldest daughter Mary.

Mary was at this time about twelve years old. One evening she was sitting at the foot of her mother's bed, spinning, and her little brother and sisters were gathered round the fire, eating their potatoes and milk for supper.

'God help them, the poor young creatures,' said the widow; who, as she lay on the bed, which she knew must be her deathbed, was thinking of what would become of her children after she was gone. Mary

stopped her wheel, for she was afraid that the noise of it had wakened her mother, and would hinder her from going to sleep again.

'No need to stop the wheel, Mary dear, for me,' said her mother 'I was not asleep; nor is it *that* which keeps me from sleep. But don't over-work yourself, Mary.'

'O, no fear of that,' replied Mary; 'I'm strong and hearty.'

'So was I once,' said her mother.

'And so you will be again I hope, please God,' said Mary, 'when the fine weather comes again.'

'The fine weather will never come again to me,' said her mother; 'tis a folly, Mary, to hope for that; but what I hope is, that you'll find some friend—some help—orphans as you'll soon all of you be. And one thing comforts my heart, even as I *am*, lying here, that not a soul in the wide world I am leaving has to complain of me. Though poor, I have lived honest, and I have brought you up to be the same, Mary; and I am sure the little ones will take after you, for you'll be good to them—as good to them as you can.'

Here the children, who had finished eating their suppers, came round the bed to listen to what their mother was saying. She was tired of speaking, for she was very

weak; but she took their little hands, as they laid them on the bed, and joining them all together, she said, 'God bless you dears —God bless you! Love and help one another all you can. Good night—good by.'

Mary took the children away to their bed, for she saw that their mother was too ill to say more; but Mary did not herself know how ill she was. Her mother never spoke rightly afterwards, but talked in a confused way about some debts, and one in particular, which she owed to a school-mistress for Mary's schooling; and then she charged Mary to go and pay it, because she was not able to *go in* with it. At the end of the week she was dead and buried; and the orphans were left alone in their cabin.

The two youngest girls, Peggy and Nancy, were six and seven years old; Edmund was not yet nine, but he was a stout grown, healthy boy and well-disposed to work. He had been used to bring home turf from the bog on his back, to lead car-horses, and often to go on errands for gentlemen's families, who paid him sixpence or a shilling, according to the distance which he went: so that Edmund, by some or other of these little employments, was, as he said, likely enough to earn his bread; and he told

Mary to have a good heart, for that he should every year grow able to do more and more, and that he should never forget his mother's words, when she last gave him her blessing, and joined their hands all together.

As for Peggy and Nancy, it was little that they could do, but they were good children; and Mary, when she considered that so much depended upon her, was resolved to exert herself to the utmost. Her first care was to pay those debts which her mother had mentioned to her, for which she left money done up carefully in separate papers. When all these were paid away, there was not enough left to pay both the rent of the cabin, and a year's schooling for herself and sisters, which was due to the schoolmistress in a neighbouring village.

Mary was in hopes that the rent would not be called for immediately; but in this she was disappointed. Mr. Harvey, the gentleman on whose estate she lived, was in England; and, in his absence, all was managed by a Mr. Hopkins, an agent, who was a *hard man*.* The driver came to Mary about a week after her mother's death, and told her that the rent must be brought in the

* A hard-hearted man.

next day, and that she must leave the cabin, for a new tenant was coming into it; that she was too young to have a house to herself, and that the only thing she had to do was, to get some neighbour to take her and her brother and sisters in, for charity's sake.

The driver finished by hinting that she would not be so hardly used, if she had not brought upon herself the ill-will of Miss Alice, the agent's daughter. Mary, it is true, had refused to give Miss Alice a goat upon which she had set her fancy; but this was the only offence of which she had been guilty, and, at the time she refused it, her mother wanted the goat's milk, which was the only thing she then liked to drink.

Mary went immediately to Mr. Hopkins, the agent, to pay her rent; and she begged of him to let her stay another year in her cabin, but this he refused. It was now the 25th of September, and he said that the new tenant must come in on the 29th; so that she must quit it directly. Mary could not bear the thoughts of begging any of the neighbours to take her and her brother and sisters in *for charity's sake*, for the neighbours were all poor enough themselves: so she bethought herself that she might find shelter in the ruins of the old castle of Ross

more, where she and her brother, in better times, had often played at hide and seek. The kitchen, and two other rooms near it, were yet covered in tolerably well; and a little thatch, she thought, would make them comfortable through the winter. The agent consented to let her and her brother and sisters go in there, upon her paying him half a guinea in hand, and promising to pay the same yearly.

Into these lodgings the orphans now removed, taking with them two bedsteads, a stool, chair, and a table, a sort of press, which contained what little clothes they had, and a chest, in which they had two hundred of meal. The chest was carried for them by some of the charitable neighbours, who likewise added to their scanty stock of potatoes and turf, what would make it last through the winter.

These children were well thought of and pitied, because their mother was known to have been all her life honest and industrious. 'Sure,' says one of the neighbours, 'we can do no less than give a helping hand to the poor orphans that are so ready to help themselves.' So one helped to thatch the room in which they were to sleep, and another took their cow to graze upon his bit

of land, on condition of having half the milk; and one and all said, they should be welcome to take share of their potatoes and butter-milk, if they should find their own ever fall short.

The half guinea which Mr. Hopkins, the agent, required for letting Mary into the castle, was part of what she had to pay to the school-mistress, to whom above a guinea was due. Mary went to her, and took her goat along with her, and offered it in part of payment of the debt, as she had no more money left; but the school-mistress would not receive the goat. She said, that she could afford to wait for her money, till Mary was able to pay it; that she knew her to be an honest, industrious little girl, and she would trust her with more than a guinea. Mary thanked her; and she was glad to take the goat home again, as she was very fond of it.

Now being settled in their house, they went every day regularly to work. Mary spun nine cuts a-day, besides doing all that was to be done in the house; Edmund got fourpence a day by his work; and Peggy and Anne earned two-pence a piece, at the paper-mills near Navan, where they were

employed to sort rags, and to cut them into small pieces.

When they had done work one day, Anne went to the master of the paper-mill, and asked him if she might have two sheets of large, white paper, which were lying on the press; she offered a penny for the paper, but the master would not take any thing from her, but gave her the paper, when he found that she wanted it to make a garland for her mother's grave. Anne and Peggy cut out the garland, and Mary, when it was finished, went along with them and Edmund. to put it up: it was just a month after their mother's death.*

It happened that at the time the orphans were putting up this garland, two young ladies, who were returning home after their evening walk, stopped at the gate of the church-yard, to look at the red light which the setting sun cast upon the windows of the church. As the ladies were standing at the gate, they heard a voice near them crying, 'O mother! mother! Are you gone for ever!' They could not see any one; so they walked softly round to the other side of

* Garlands are usually put on the graves of *young* people: these children, perhaps, did not know this

the church; and there they saw Mary, kneeling beside a grave, on which her brother and sisters were hanging their white garlands.

The children all stood still when they saw the two ladies passing near them; but Mary did not know any body was passing, for her face was hid in her hands.

Isabella and Caroline (so these ladies were called) would not disturb the poor children, but they stopped in the village to inquire about them. It was at the house of the school-mistress, that they stopped; and she gave them a good account of these orphans: she particularly commended Mary's honesty in having immediately paid all her mother's debts to the utmost farthing, as far as her money would go: she told the ladies how Mary had been turned out of her house, and how she had offered her goat, of which she was very fond, to discharge a debt due for her schooling; and, in short, the school-mistress, who had known Mary for several years, spoke so well of her, that these ladies resolved that they would go to the old castle of Rossmore, to see her, the next day.

When they went there, they found the room in which the children lived, as clean and neat as such a ruined place could be

made. Edmund was out, working with a farmer, Mary was spinning, and her little sisters were measuring out some bog-berries, of which they had gathered a basket-full, for sale. Isabella, after telling Mary what an excellent character she had heard of her, inquired what it was she most wanted; and Mary said, that she had just worked up all her flax, and she was most in want of more flax for her wheel.

Isabella promised that she would send her a fresh supply of flax, and Caroline bought the bog-berries from the little girls, and gave them money enough to buy a pound of coarse cotton for knitting, as Mary said that she could teach them how to knit.

The supply of flax which Isabella sent the next day, was of great service to Mary, as it kept her in employment for above a month: and when she sold the yarn which she had spun with it, she had money enough to buy some warm flannel, for winter wear. Besides spinning well, she had learned, at school, to do plain-work tolerably neatly, and Isabella and Caroline employed her to work for them; by which she earned a great deal more than she could by spinning. At her leisure hours, she taught her sisters to read and write; and Edmund, with part of the

money which he earned by his work out of doors, paid a school-master for teaching him a little arithmetic. When the winter nights came on, he used to light his rush candles for Mary to work by. He had gathered and stripped a good provision of rushes, in the month of August; and a neighbour gave him grease to dip them in.

One evening, just as he had lighted his candle, a footman came in, who was sent by Isabella with some plain-work to Mary. This servant was an Englishman; and he was but newly come over to Ireland. The rush-candles caught his attention; for he had never seen any of them before, as he came from a part of England were they were not used.*

* See Whyte's 'Natural History of Selbourne,' page 198, quarto edition. This eloquent, well-informed, and benevolent writer, thought that no subject of rural economy which could be of general utility, was beneath his notice. We cannot forbear quoting from him the following passage:—

'The proper species of rush for *our* purpose seems to be the *juncus effusus*, or common soft rush, which is to be found in moist pastures, by the sides of streams, and under hedges. These rushes are in best condition in the height of summer, but may be gathered so as to serve the purpose well, quite on to autumn. It would be needless to add, that the largest and longest are best. Decayed labourers, women, and children, make it their

Edmund, who was ready to oblige, and proud that his candles were noticed, shewed the Englishman how they were made, and gave him a bundle of rushes. The servant was pleased with his good-nature in this trifling instance, and remembered it long after it was forgotten by Edmund.

business to procure and prepare them. As soon as they are cut, they must be flung into water, and kept there; for otherwise they will dry and shrink, and the peel will not run. At first a person would find it no easy matter to divest a rush of its peel or rind, so as to leave one regular, narrow, even rib, from top to bottom, that may support the pith: but this, like other feats, soon becomes familiar, even to children; and we have seen an old woman, stone blind, performing this business with great dispatch, and seldom failing to strip them with the nicest regularity. When these *junci* are thus far prepared, they must lie out on the grass to be bleached, and take the dew for some nights, and afterwards be dried in the sun. Some address is required in dipping these rushes in the scalding fat or grease; but this knack is also to be attained by practice. A pound of common grease may be procured for fourpence, and about six pounds of grease will dip a pound of rushes, and one pound of rushes may be bought for a shilling; so that one pound of rushes, medicated and ready for use, will cost three shillings. If men that keep bees will mix a little wax with the grease, it will give it a consistency, and render it more cleanly, and make the rushes burn longer. Mutton suet would have the same effect.

'A good rush, which measured in length two feet four inches, being minuted, burnt only three minutes

Whenever his master wanted to send a messenger any where, Gilbert (for that was the servant's name) always employed his little friend Edmund, whom, upon further acquaintance, he liked better and better. He found that Edmund was both quick and

short of an hour. In a pound of dry rushes, avoirdupois, which I caused to be weighed and numbered, we found upwards of one thousand six hundred individuals Now suppose each of these burns, one with another, only half an hour, then a poor man will purchase eight hundred hours of light, a time exceeding thirty-three entire days, for three shillings. According to this account, each rush, before dipping, costs one thirty-third of a farthing, and one eleventh afterwards. Thus a poor family will enjoy five hours and a half of comfortable light for a farthing. An experienced old housekeeper assures me, that one pound and a half of rushes completely supply his family the year round, since working people burn no candles in the long days, because they rise and go to bed by day-light.

'Little farmers use rushes much in the short days, both morning and evening, in the dairy and kitchen: but the very poor, who are always the worst economists, and therefore must continue very poor, buy a halfpenny candle every evening, which, in their blowing, open rooms, does not burn much more than two hours. Thus they have only two hours light for their money, instead of eleven.'

If Mr. Whyte had taken the trouble of extending his calculations, he would have found, that the seemingly trifling article of economy which he recommends, would save to the nation a sum equal to the produce of a burdensome tax.

exact in executing commissions. One day, after he had waited a great while at a gentleman's house for an answer to a letter, he was so impatient to get home, that he ran off without it. When he was questioned by Gilbert, why he did not bring an answer, he did not attempt to make any excuse: he did not say, '*There was no answer, please your honour*,' or, '*They bid me not wait*,' &c. but he told exactly the truth; and though Gilbert scolded him for being so impatient as not to wait, yet his telling the truth was more to the boy's advantage than any excuse he could have made. After this, he was always believed when he said, '*There was no answer*,' or, '*They bid me not wait*;' for Gilbert knew that he would not tell a lie to save himself from being scolded.

The orphans continued to assist one another in their work, according to their strength and abilities; and they went on in this manner for three years; and with what Mary got by her spinning and plain-work, and Edmund by leading of car-horses, going on errands, &c. and with little Peggy and Anne's earnings, the family contrived to live comfortably. Isabella and Caroline often visited them, and sometimes gave them clothes, and sometimes flax or cotton for

their spinning and knitting; and these children did not *expect* that, because the ladies did something for them, they should do every thing: they did not grow idle or wasteful.

When Edmund was about twelve years old, his friend Gilbert sent for him one day, and told him that his master had given him leave to have a boy in the house to assist him, and that his master told him he might choose one in the neighbourhood. Several were anxious to get into such a good place; but Gilbert said, that he preferred Edmund before them all, because he knew him to be an industrious, honest, good-natured lad, who always told the truth. So Edmund went into service at *the vicarage;* and his master was the father of Isabella and Caroline. He found his new way of life very pleasant; for he was well fed, well clothed, and well treated; and he every day learned more of his business, in which at first he was rather awkward. He was mindful to do all that Mr. Gilbert required of him; and he was so obliging to all his fellow servants, that they could not help liking him; but there was one thing which was at first rather disagreeable to him: he was obliged to wear shoes and stockings, and they hurt

his feet. Besides this, when he waited at dinner, he made such a noise in walking, that his fellow servants laughed at him. He told his sister Mary of this his distress; and she made for him, after many trials, a pair of cloth shoes, with soles of platted hemp.* In these he could walk without making the least noise; and as these shoes could not be worn out of doors, he was always sure to change them before he went out of doors; and consequently he had always clean shoes to wear in the house. It was soon remarked by the men-servants, that he had left off clumping so heavily; and it was observed by the maids, that he never dirted the stairs or passages with his shoes. When he was praised for these things, he said it was his sister Mary who should be thanked, and not he; and he shewed the shoes which she had made for him.

Isabella's maid bespoke a pair immediately, and sent Mary a piece of pretty calico for the outside. The last maker made a last for her, and over this Mary sewed the calico vamps tight. Her brother advised her to try platted pack-thread instead of

* The author has seen a pair of shoes, such as are here described, made in a few hours.

hemp for the soles; and she found that this looked more neat than the hemp soles, and was likely to last longer. She platted the pack-thread together in strands of about half an inch thick; and these were sewed firmly together at the bottom of the shoe. When they were finished, they fitted well, and the maid shewed them to her mistress. Isabella and Caroline were so well pleased with Mary's ingenuity and kindness to her brother, that they bespoke from her two dozen of these shoes, and gave her three yards of coloured fustian to make them of, and galoon for the binding. When the shoes were compleated, Isabella and Caroline disposed of them for her amongst their acquaintance, and got three shillings a pair for them. The young ladies, as soon as they had collected the money, walked to the old castle, where they found every thing neat and clean as usual. They had great pleasure in giving to this industrious girl the reward of her ingenuity, which she received with some surprise and more gratitude. They advised her to continue the shoe-making trade, as they found the shoes were liked, and they knew that they could have a sale for them at the *Repository* in Dublin.

Mary, encouraged by these kind friends, went on with her little manufacture with increased activity. Peggy and Anne platted the pack-thread, and pasted the vamps and the lining together ready for her. Edmund was allowed to come home for an hour every morning, provided he was back again before eight o'clock. It was summer time, and he got up early, because he liked to go home to see his sisters, and he took his share in their manufactory. It was his business to hammer the soles flat: and as soon as he came home every morning, he performed his task with so much cheerfulness, and sung so merrily at his work, that the hour of his arrival was always an hour of joy to the family.

Mary had presently employment enough upon her hands. Orders came to her for shoes from many families in the neighbourhood, and she could not get them finished fast enough. She, however, in the midst of her hurry, found time to make a very pretty pair with neat roses as a present for her school-mistress, who, now that she saw her pupil in a good way of business, consented to receive the amount of her old debt. Several of the children who went to her school, were delighted with the sight of

Mary's present, and went to the little manufactory at Rossmore castle, to find out how these shoes were made. Some went from curiosity, others from idleness; but when they saw how happy the little shoe-makers seemed whilst busy at work, they longed to take some share in what was going forward. One begged Mary to let her plat some packthread for the soles; another helped Peggy and Anne to baste in the linings; and all who could get employment were pleased, for the idle ones were shoved out of the way. It became a custom with the children of the village, to resort to the old castle at their play hours; and it was surprising to see how much was done by ten or twelve of them, each doing but a little at a time.

One morning Edmund and the little manufacturers were assembled very early, and they were busy at their work, all sitting round the meal chest, which served them for a table.

'My hands must be washed,' said George, a little boy who came running in; 'I ran so fast that I might be in time to go to work along with you all, that I tumbled down; and look how I have dirted my hands. Most haste worst speed. My hands must be washed before I can do any thing.'

Whilst George was washing his hands, two other little children, who had just finished their morning's work, came to him to beg that he would blow some soap bubbles for them, and they were all three eagerly blowing bubbles, and watching them mount into the air, when suddenly they were startled by a noise as loud as thunder; they were in a sort of outer court of the castle, next to the room in which all their companions were at work, and they ran precipitately into the room, exclaiming, 'Did you hear that noise?'

'I thought I heard a clap of thunder,' said Mary; 'but why do you look so frightened?'

As she finished speaking, another and a louder noise was heard, and the walls round about them shook. The children turned pale, and stood motionless: but Edmund threw down his hammer, and ran out to see what was the matter. Mary followed him, and they saw that a great chimney of the old ruins at the farthest side of the castle had fallen down, and this was the cause of the prodigious noise.

The part of the castle in which they lived, seemed, as Edmund said, to be perfectly safe; but the children of the village were

terrified, and thinking that the whole would come tumbling down directly, they ran to their homes as fast as they could. Edmund, who was a courageous lad, and proud of shewing his courage, laughed at their cowardice; but Mary, who was very prudent, persuaded her brother to ask an experienced mason, who was building at his master's, to come and give his opinion whether their part of the castle was safe to live in or not. The mason came, and gave it as his opinion, that the rooms they inhabited might last through the winter, but that no part of the ruins could stand another year. Mary was sorry to leave a place of which she had grown fond, poor as it was, having lived in it in peace and content ever since her mother's death, which was now nearly four years; but she determined to look out for some other place to live in; and she had now money enough to pay the rent of a comfortable cabin. Without losing any time, she went to a village that was at the end of the avenue, leading to *the vicarage*, for she wished to get a lodging in this village, because it was so near to her brother, and to the ladies who had been so kind to her; she found, that there was one newly built house in this village unoccupied; it

belonged to Mr. Harvey, her landlord, who was still in England. It was slated, and neatly fitted up within side, but the rent of it was six guineas a year, and this was far above what Mary could afford to pay: three guineas a year she thought was the highest rent for which she could venture to engage; besides, she heard that several proposals had been made to Mr. Harvey for this house, and she knew that Mr. Hopkins, the agent, was not her friend; therefore she despaired of getting it. There was no other to be had in this village. Her brother was still more vexed than she was, that she could not find a place near him. He offered to give a guinea yearly towards the rent out of his wages; and Mr. Gilbert spoke about it for him to the steward, and inquired whether amongst any of those who had given in proposals, there might not be one, who would be content with a part of the house, and who would join with Mary in paying the rent. None could be found but a woman who was a great scold, and a man who was famous for going to law about every trifle with his neighbours. Mary did not choose to have any thing to do with these people; she did not like to speak either to Miss Isabella or Caroline about it,

because she was not of an encroaching temper; and when they had done so much for her, she would have been ashamed to beg for more. She returned home to the old castle, mortified that she had no good news to tell Anne and Peggy, who she knew expected to hear that she had found a nice house for them in the village, near their brother.

'Bad news for you, Peggy,' cried she, as soon as she got home.

'And bad news for you, Mary,' replied her sisters, who looked very sorrowful.

'What's the matter?'

'Your poor goat is dead,' replied Peggy; 'there she is yonder, lying under the great corner-stone; you can just see her leg. We cannot lift the stone from off her, it is so heavy. Betsy, (one of the neighbour's girls) says, she remembers, when she came to us to work early this morning, she saw the goat rubbing itself, and butting with its horns against that old tottering chimney.'

'Many's the time,' said Mary, 'that I have driven the poor thing away from that place; I was always afraid she would shake that great ugly stone down upon her at last.'

The goat, who had long been the favourite of Mary and her sisters, was lamented

by them all. When Edmund came, he helped them to move the great stone from off the poor animal, who was crushed so as to be a terrible sight. As they were moving away this stone, in order to bury the goat, Anne found an odd looking piece of money, which seemed neither like a halfpenny, nor a shilling, nor a guinea.

'Here are more, a great many more of them,' cried Peggy; and upon searching amongst the rubbish, they discovered a small iron pot, which seemed as if it had been filled with these coins, as a vast number of them were found about the spot where it fell. On examining these coins, Edmund thought that several of them looked like gold; and the girls exclaimed with great joy—'O Mary! Mary! this is come to us just in right time—now you can pay for the slated house. Never was any thing so lucky.'

But Mary, though nothing could have pleased her better than to have been able to pay for the house, observed, that they could not honestly touch any of this treasure, as it belonged to the owner of the castle. Edmund agreed with her, that they ought to carry it all immediately to Mr. Hopkins, the agent. Peggy and Anne were convinced

by what Mary said, and they begged to go along with her and their brother, to take the coins to Mr. Hopkins. In their way they stopped at the vicarage, to shew the treasure to Mr. Gilbert, who took it to the young ladies, Isabella and Caroline, and told them how it had been found.

It is not only by their superior riches, but it is yet more by their superior knowledge, that persons in the higher ranks of life may assist those in a lower condition.

Isabella, who had some knowledge of chemistry, discovered, by touching the coins with aqua regia (the only acid which affects gold) that several of them were of gold, and consequently of great value. Caroline also found out that many of the coins were very valuable as curiosities. She recollected her father's having shewn to her the prints of the coins at the end of each king's reign, in Rapin's history of England; and upon comparing these impressions with the coins found by the orphans, she perceived, that many of them were of the reign of Henry the seventh.

People who are fond of collecting coins set a great value on these, as they are very scarce. Isabella and Caroline knowing something of the character of Mr. Hopkins,

the agent, had the precaution to count the coins, and to mark each of them with a cross, so small that it was scarcely visible to the naked eye, though it was easily to be seen through a magnifying glass. They also begged their father, who was well acquainted with Mr. Harvey, the gentleman to whom Rossmore Castle belonged, to write to him, and tell him how well these orphans had behaved about the treasure which they had found. The value of the coins was estimated at about thirty or forty guineas.

A few days after the fall of the chimney at Rossmore Castle, as Mary and her sisters were sitting at their work, there came hobbling in an old woman, leaning on a crab-stick, that seemed to have been newly cut: she had a broken tobacco-pipe in her mouth; her head was wrapped up in two large red and blue handkerchiefs, with their crooked corners hanging far down over the back of her neck; no shoes on her broad feet, nor stockings on her many coloured legs; her petticoat was jagged at the bottom, and the skirt of her gown turned up over her shoulders, to serve instead of her cloak, which she had sold for whiskey. This old woman was well known amongst the country people by

the name of *Goody Grope:** because she had, for many years, been in the habit of groping in old castles, and in moats,† and at the bottom of a round tower‡ in the neighbourhood, in search of treasure. In her youth she had heard some one talking, in a whisper, of an old prophesy found in a bog, which said that, 'before many St. Patrick's days should come about, there would be found a treasure under ground, by one within twenty miles round.'

This prophesy made a deep impression upon her; she also dreamed of it three times; and as the dream, she thought, was a sure token that the prophesy was to come true, she, from that time forwards, gave up her spinning wheel, and her knitting, and could think of nothing but hunting for the treasure that was to be found by one '*within twenty miles round.*' Year after year St.

* *Goody* is not a word used in Ireland; *Collrogh* is the Irish appellation of an old woman: but as *Collrogh* might sound strangely to English ears, we have translated it by the word Goody.

† What are in Ireland called moats, are, in England, called Danish mounts, or barrows.

‡ Near Kells, in Ireland, there is a round tower which was in imminent danger of being pulled down by an old woman's rooting at its foundation, in hopes of finding treasure.

Patrick's day came about without her ever finding a farthing by all her groping; and as she was always idle, she grew poorer and poorer; besides, to comfort herself for her disappointments, and to give her spirits for fresh searches, she took to drinking: she sold all she had by degrees, but still she fancied, that the lucky day would come sooner or later, *that would pay for all.*

Goody Grope however reached her sixtieth year, without ever seeing this lucky day; and now, in her old age, she was a beggar, without a house to shelter her, a bed to lie on, or food to put into her mouth, but what she begged from the charity of those who had trusted more than she had to industry, and less to *luck.*

'Ah! Mary, honey! give me a potatoe, and a sup of something, for the love o' mercy; for not a bit have I had all day, except half a glass of whiskey, and a half-pennyworth of tobacco!'

Mary immediately set before her some milk, and picked a good potatoe out of the bowl for her; she was sorry to see such an old woman in such a wretched condition. Goody Grope said she would rather have spirits of some kind or other than milk; but Mary had no spirits to give her; so she sat

herself down close to the fire, and after she had sighed and groaned and smoked for some time, she said to Mary—

'Well, and what have you done with the treasure you had the luck to find?'

Mary told her that she had carried it to Mr. Hopkins, the agent.

'That's not what I would have done in your place,' replied the old woman. 'When good-luck came to you, what a shame to turn your back upon it! but it is idle talking of what's done—that's past—but I'll try my luck in this here castle before next St. Patrick's day comes about: I was told it was more than twenty miles from our bog, or I would have been here long ago: but better late than never.'

Mary was much alarmed, and not without reason, at this speech: for she knew that if Goody Grope once set to work at the foundation of the old castle of Rossmore, she would soon bring it all down. It was in vain to talk to Goody Grope of the danger of burying herself under the ruins, or of the improbability of her meeting with another pot of gold coins. She set her elbows upon her knees, and stopping her ears with her hands, bid Mary and her sisters not to waste their breath advising their elders;

for that, let them say what they would, she would fall to work the next morning: '*barring** you'll make it worth my while to let it alone.'

'And what will make it worth your while to let it alone?' said Mary, who saw that she must either get into a quarrel, or give up her habitation, or comply with the conditions of this provoking old woman.

Half a crown, Goody Grope said, was the least she could be content to take.

Mary paid the half crown, and was in hopes she had got rid for ever of her tormentor, but she was mistaken; for scarcely was the week at an end, before the old woman appeared before her again, and repeated her threats of falling to work the next morning, unless she had something given to her to buy tobacco.

The next day, and the next, and the next, Goody Grope came on the same errand; and poor Mary, who could ill afford to supply her constantly with halfpence, at last exclaimed—'I am sure the finding of this treasure has not been any good-luck to us, but quite the contrary; and I wish we never had found it.'

* Unless.

Mary did not yet know how much she was to suffer on account of this unfortunate pot of gold coins. Mr. Hopkins, the agent, imagined that no one knew of the discovery of this treasure but himself and these poor children; so, not being as honest as they were, he resolved to keep it for his own use. He was surprised some weeks afterwards, to receive a letter from his employer, Mr. Harvey, demanding from him the coins which had been discovered at Rossmore castle. Hopkins had sold the gold coins, and some of the others; but he flattered himself that the children, and the young ladies to whom he now found they had been shewn, could not tell whether what they had seen were gold or not; and he was not in the least apprehensive that those of Henry the seventh's reign should be reclaimed from him, as he thought they had escaped attention. So he sent over the silver coins, and others of little value, and apologised for his not having mentioned them before, by saying, that he considered them as mere rubbish.

Mr. Harvey, in reply, observed, that he could not consider as rubbish the gold coins which were amongst them when they were discovered; and he inquired why these gold

coins, and those of the reign of Henry the seventh, were not now sent to him.

Mr. Hopkins denied that he had ever received any such; but he was thunderstruck when Mr. Harvey, in reply to this falsehood, sent him a list of the coins, which the orphans had deposited with him, and exact drawings of those that were missing. He informed him, that this list and these drawings came from two ladies who had seen the coins in question.

Mr. Hopkins thought that he had no means of escape but by boldly persisting in falsehood. He replied, that it was very likely such coins had been found at Rossmore castle, and that the ladies alluded to had probably seen them; but he positively declared, that they never came to his hands; that he had restored all that were deposited with him; and that as to the others, he supposed they must have been taken out of the pot by the children, or by Edmund or Mary, in their way from the ladies' house to his.

The orphans were shocked and astonished when they heard, from Isabella and Caroline, the charge that was made against them: they looked at one another in silence for some moments; then Peggy exclaimed—'Sure

Mr. Hopkins has forgotten himself strangely! Does not he remember Edmund's counting the things to him upon the great table in his hall, and we all standing by? I remember it as well as if it was this instant.'

'And so do I,' cried Anne; 'and don't you recollect, Mary, your picking out the gold ones, and telling Mr. Hopkins that they were gold; and he said you knew nothing of the matter; and I was going to tell him, that Miss Isabella had tried them, and knew that they were gold; but just then there came in some tenants to pay their rent, and he pushed us out, and twitched from my hand the piece of gold, which I had taken up to shew him the bright spot, which Miss Isabella had cleaned by the stuff that she had poured on it. I believe he was afraid I should steal it, he twitched it from my hand in such a hurry. Do, Edmund, do Mary—let us go to him, and put him in mind of all this.'

'I'll go to him no more,' said Edmund, sturdily. 'He is a bad man—I'll never go near him again. Mary don't be cast down—we have no need to be cast down—we are honest.'

'True,' said Mary; 'but is not it a hard case, that we, who have lived, as my mother

did all her life before us, in peace and honesty with all the world, should now have our good name taken from us, when——' Mary's voice faltered and stopped.

'It can't be taken from us,' cried Edmund, 'poor orphans though we are, and he a rich gentleman, as he calls himself. Let him say and do what he will, he can't hurt our good name.'

Edmund was mistaken, alas! and Mary had but too much reason for her fears. The affair was a great deal talked of; and the agent spared no pains to have the story told his own way. The orphans, conscious of their own innocence, took no pains about the matter; and the consequence was, that all who knew them well, had no doubt of their honesty; but many who knew nothing of them, concluded that the agent must be in the right, and the children in the wrong. The buz of scandal went on for some time without reaching their ears, because they lived very retiredly; but one day, when Mary went to sell some stockings of Peggy's knitting, at a neighbouring fair, the man to whom she sold them bid her write her name on the back of a note, and exclaimed, on seeing it—'Ho! Ho! mistress: I'd not have had any dealings with you, had I known

your name sooner: where's the gold that you found at Rossmore castle?'

It was in vain that Mary related the fact; she saw that she gained no belief, as her character was not known to this man, or to any of those who were present. She left the fair as soon as she could; and though she struggled against it, she felt very melancholy. Still she exerted herself every day at her little manufacture; and she endeavoured to console herself by reflecting that she had two friends left, who would not give up her character, and who continued steadily to protect her and her sisters.

Isabella and Caroline every where asserted their belief in the integrity of the orphans; but to prove it was in this instance out of their power. Mr. Hopkins, the agent, and his friends, constantly repeated, that the gold coins were taken away in coming from their house to his; and these ladies were blamed by many people for continuing to countenance those, that were, with great reason, suspected to be thieves. The orphans were in a worse condition than ever when the winter came on, and their benefactresses left the country, to spend some months in Dublin. The old castle, it was true, was likely to last through the winter as the

mason said; but though the want of a comfortable house to live in was, a little while ago, the uppermost thing in Mary's thoughts, now it was not so.

One night as Mary was going to bed, she heard some one knocking hard at the door. 'Mary, are you up? let us in,' cried a voice which she knew to be the voice of Betsy Green, the postmaster's daughter, who lived in the village near them.

She let Betsy in, and asked what she could want at such a time of night.

'Give me sixpence, and I'll tell you,' said Betsy: 'but waken Anne and Peggy. Here's a letter just come by the post for you, and I stepped over to you with it; because I guessed you'd be glad to have it, seeing it is your brother's hand-writing.'

Peggy and Anne were soon roused, when they heard that there was a letter from Edmund. It was by one of his rush candles that Mary read it; and the letter was as follows:

Dear Mary, Nancy, and little Peg,

'Joy! joy! I always said the truth would come out at last; and that he could not take our good name from us. But I will not tell you how it all came about till we meet, which will be next week, as we are (I mean

master and mistress, and the young ladies, God bless them! and Mr. Gilbert and I) coming down to the vicarage to keep the Christmas: and a happy Christmas 'tis likely to be for honest folks: as for they that are not honest, it is not for them to expect to be happy, at Christmas or any other time. You shall know all when we meet: so, till then, fare ye well dear Mary, Nancy, and little Peg!

'Your joyful and affectionate brother,

'EDMUND.'

To comprehend why Edmund is joyful, our readers must be informed of certain things which happened after Isabella and Caroline went to Dublin. One morning they went with their father and mother to see the magnificent library of a nobleman, who took generous and polite pleasure in thus sharing the advantages of his wealth and station with all who had any pretensions to science or literature. Knowing that the gentleman who was now come to see his library, was skilled in antiquities, the nobleman opened a drawer of medals, to ask his opinion concerning the age of some coins which he had lately purchased at a high price. They were the very same which the orphans had found at Rossmore castle.

Isabella and Caroline knew them again instantly; and as the cross which Isabella had made on each of them, was still visible through a magnifying glass, there could be no possibility of doubt.

The nobleman, who was much interested both by the story of these orphans, and the manner in which it was told to him, sent immediately for the person from whom he had purchased the coins. He was a jew broker. At first he refused to tell from whom he got them, because he had bought them, he said, under a promise of secresy. Being further pressed, he acknowledged, that it was made a condition in his bargain, that he should not sell them to any one in Ireland; but that he had been tempted by the high price Lord —— had offered.

At last, when the jew was informed that the coins were stolen, and that he would be proceeded against as a receiver of stolen goods, if he did not confess the whole truth, he declared, that he had purchased them from a gentleman whom he had never seen before or since; but he added, that he could swear to his person, if he saw him again.

Now Mr. Hopkins, the agent, was at this time in Dublin, and Caroline's father, posted the jew, the next day, in the back parlour

of a banker's house, with whom Mr. Hopkins had, on this day, appointed to settle some accounts. Mr. Hopkins came—the jew knew him—swore that he was the man who had sold the coins to him; and thus the guilt of the agent, and the innocence of the orphans, were completely proved.

A full account of all that happened was sent to England to Mr. Harvey, their landlord; and, a few posts afterwards, there came a letter from him, containing a dismissal of the dishonest agent, and a reward for the honest and industrious orphans. Mr. Harvey desired that Mary and her sisters might have the slated house, rent free, from this time forward, under the care of the ladies Isabella and Caroline, as long as Mary or her sisters should carry on in it any useful business. This was the joyful news which Edmund had to tell his sisters.

All the neighbours shared in their joy; and the day of their removal from the ruins of Rossmore castle to their new house was the happiest of the Christmas holidays. They were not envied for their prosperity, because every body saw that it was the reward of their good conduct; every body except Goody Grope: she exclaimed, as she wrung her hands with violent expressions of sorrow—

'Bad luck to me! bad luck to me! Why didn't I go sooner to that there castle! It is all luck, all luck in this world; but I never had no luck. Think of the luck of these *childer*, that have found a pot of gold, and such great, grand friends, and a slated house, and all; and here am I, with scarce a rag to cover me, and not a potatoe to put into my mouth! I, that have been looking under ground all my days for treasure, not to have a halfpenny at the last, to buy me tobacco!'

'That is the very reason that you have not a halfpenny,' said Betsy: 'here Mary has been working hard, and so have her two little sisters and her brother, for these five years past; and they have made money for themselves by their own industry, and friends too; not by luck, but by——'

'Pooh! pooh!' interrupted Goody Grope; 'don't be prating; don't I know as well as you do, that they found a pot of gold, by *good-luck*; and is not that the cause why they are going to live in the slated house now?'

'No,' replied the postmaster's daughter; 'this house is given to them *as a reward*—that was the word in the letter, for I saw it; Edmund shewed it to me, and will shew it to any one that wants to see it. This house was given to them '*as a reward for their honesty*.'

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT;

OR,

TWO STRINGS TO YOUR BOW.

MR. GRESHAM, a Bristol merchant, who had, by honourable industry and economy, accumulated a considerable fortune, retired from business to a new house which he had built upon the Downs, near Clifton. Mr. Gresham, however, did not imagine that a new house alone could make him happy: he did not propose to live in idleness and extravagance; for such a life would have been equally incompatible with his habits and his principles. He was fond of children, and as he had no sons, he determined to adopt one of his relations. He had two nephews, and he invited both of them to his house, that he might have an opportunity of judging of their dispositions, and of the habits which they had acquired.

Hal and Benjamin, Mr. Gresham's nephews, were about ten years old; they had been educated very differently: Hal was the son of the elder branch of the family; his father was a gentleman who spent rather more than he could afford; and Hal, from the example of the servants in his father's family, with whom he had passed the first years of his childhood, learned to waste more of every thing than he used. He had been told, that 'gentlemen should be above being careful and saving;' and he had unfortunately imbibed a notion, that extravagance is the sign of a generous, and economy of an avaricious disposition.

Benjamin,* on the contrary, had been taught habits of care and foresight: his father had but a very small fortune, and was anxious that his son should early learn that economy ensures independence, and sometimes puts it in the power of those, who are not very rich, to be very generous.

The morning after these two boys arrived at their uncle's, they were eager to see all the rooms in the house. Mr. Gresham accompanied them, and attended to their remarks and exclamations.

* Benjamin, so called from Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

'O! what an excellent motto!' exclaimed Ben, when he read the following words, which were written in large characters, over the chimney-piece, in his uncle's spacious kitchen—

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

'Waste not, want not!' repeated his cousin Hal, in rather a contemptuous tone; 'I think it looks stingy to servants; and no gentleman's servants, cooks especially, would like to have such a mean motto always staring them in the face.'

Ben, who was not so conversant as his cousin in the ways of cooks and gentlemen's servants, made no reply to these observations.

Mr. Gresham was called away whilst his nephews were looking at the other rooms in the house. Some time afterwards, he heard their voices in the hall.

'Boys,' said he, 'what are you doing there?'

'Nothing, sir,' said Hal; 'you were called away from us, and we did not know which way to go.'

'And have you nothing to do?' said Mr. Gresham.

'No, sir! nothing,' answered Hal, in a careless tone, like one who was well content with the state of habitual idleness.

'No, sir, nothing!' replied Ben, in a voice of lamentation.

'Come,' said Mr. Gresham, 'if you have nothing to do, lads, will you unpack these two parcels for me?'

The two parcels were exactly alike, both of them well tied up with good whip-cord. Ben took his parcel to a table, and, after breaking off the sealing wax, began carefully to examine the knot, and then to untie it. Hal stood still, exactly in the spot where the parcel was put into his hands, and tried first at one corner, and then at another, to pull the string off by force: 'I wish these people wouldn't tie up their parcels so tight, as if they were never to be undone,' cried he, as he tugged at the cord; and he pulled the knot closer instead of loosening it.

'Ben! why how did ye get your's undone, man? what's in your parcel? I wonder what is in mine. I wish I could get this string off—I must cut it.'

'O, no,' said Ben, who now had undone the last knot of his parcel, and who drew out the length of string with exultation, 'don't cut it, Hal—look what a nice cord this is,

and your's is the same; it's a pity to cut it; '*Waste not, want not!*' you know.'

'Pooh!' said Hal, 'what signifies a bit of packthread?'

'It is whip-cord,' said Ben.

'Well, whip-cord? what signifies a bit of whip-cord? you can get a bit of whip-cord twice as long as that for two-pence; and who cares for two-pence? Not I, for one! so here it goes,' cried Hal, drawing out his knife; and he cut the cord, precipitately, in sundry places.

'Lads! have you undone the parcels for me?' said Mr. Gresham, opening the parlour door as he spoke.

'Yes, sir,' cried Hal; and he dragged off his half cut, half entangled string—'here's the parcel.'

'And here's my parcel, uncle; and here's the string,' said Ben.

'You may keep the string for your pains,' said Mr. Gresham.

'Thank you, sir,' said Ben: 'what an excellent whip-cord it is!'

'And you, Hal,' continued Mr. Gresham, you may keep your string too, if it will be of any use to you.'

'It will be of no use to me, thank you, sir,' said Hal.

'No, I am afraid not, if this be it, said his uncle, taking up the jagged, knotted remains of Hal's cord.

A few days after this, Mr. Gresham gave to each of his nephews a new top.

'But how's this,' said Hal; 'these tops have no strings; what shall we do for strings?'

'I have a string that will do very well for mine,' said Ben; and he pulled out of his pocket the fine, long, smooth string, which had tied up the parcel. With this he soon set up his top, which spun admirably well.

'O, how I wish I had but a string,' said Hal; 'what shall I do for a string? I'll tell you what; I can use the string that goes round my hat!'

'But then,' said Ben, 'what will you do for a hat band?'

'I'll manage to do without one,' said Hal: and he took the string off his hat for his top. It soon was worn through; and he split his top by driving the peg too tightly into it. His cousin Ben let him set up his the next day; but Hal was not more fortunate, or more careful when he meddled with other people's things than when he managed his own. He had scarcely played half an hour

before he split it, by driving in the peg too violently.

Ben bore this misfortune with good-humour. 'Come,' said he, 'it can't be helped: but give me the string, because *that* may still be of use for something else.'

It happened some time afterwards, that a lady, who had been intimately acquainted with Hal's mother at Bath, that is to say, who had frequently met her at the card-table during the winter, now arrived at Clifton. She was informed by his mother that Hal was at Mr. Gresham's; and her sons, who were *friends* of his, came to see him, and invited him to spend the next day with them.

Hal joyfully accepted the invitation. He was always glad to go out to dine, because it gave him something to do, something to think of, or, at least, something to say. Besides this, he had been educated to think it was a fine thing to visit fine people; and Lady Diana Sweepstakes (for that was the name of his mother's acquaintance) was a very fine lady, and her two sons intended to be very *great* gentlemen.

He was in a prodigious hurry when these young gentlemen knocked at his uncle's door the next day; but just as he got to the hall door, little Patty called to him from the top

of the stairs, and told him, that he had dropped his pocket handkerchief.

'Pick it up, then, and bring it to me quick, can't you child,' cried Hal, 'for Lady Di's sons are waiting for me.'

Little Patty did not know any thing about Lady Di's sons; but as she was very good-natured, and saw that her cousin Hal was, for some reason or other, in a desperate hurry, she ran down stairs as fast as she possibly could, towards the landing place, where the handkerchief lay; but, alas! before she reached the handkerchief, she fell, rolled down a whole flight of stairs, and when her fall was at last stopped by the landing place, she did not cry, but she writhed, as if she was in great pain.

'Where are you hurt, my love?' said Mr. Gresham, who came instantly, on hearing the noise of some one falling down stairs; 'where are you hurt, my dear?'

'Here, papa,' said the little girl, touching her ancle, which she had decently covered with her gown: 'I believe I am hurt here, but not much,' added she, trying to rise; 'only it hurts me when I move.'

'I'll carry you; don't move then,' said her father; and he took her up in his arms.

'My shoe, I've lost one of my shoes,' said she.

Ben looked for it upon the stairs, and he found it sticking in a loop of whip-cord, which was entangled round one of the bannisters. When this cord was drawn forth, it appeared that it was the very same jagged, entangled piece, which Hal had pulled off his parcel. He had diverted himself with running up and down stairs, whipping the bannisters with it, as he thought he could convert it to no better use; and, with his usual carelessness, he at last left it hanging just where he happened to throw it when the dinner bell rang. Poor little Patty's ancle was terribly sprained, and Hal reproached himself for his folly, and would have reproached himself longer, perhaps, if Lady Di' Sweepstake's sons had not hurried him away.

In the evening, Patty could not run about as she used to do; but she sat upon the sofa, and she said, that 'she did not feel the pain of her ancle *so much*, while Ben was so good as to play at *jack-straws* with her.'

'That's right, Ben; never be ashamed of being good-natured to those who are younger and weaker than yourself,' said his uncle,

smiling at seeing him produce his whip-cord, to indulge his little cousin with a game at her favourite cat's-cradle. 'I shall not think you one bit less manly because I see you playing at cat's-cradle with a little child of six years old.'

Hal, however, was not precisely of his uncle's opinion; for when he returned in the evening, and saw Ben playing with his little cousin, he could not help smiling contemptuously, and asked if he had been playing at cat's cradle all night. In a heedless manner he made some inquiries after Patty's sprained ancle, and then he ran on to tell all the news he had heard at Lady Diana Sweepstake's: news, which he thought would make him appear a person of vast importance.

'Do you know, uncle—do you know, Ben,' said he, 'there's to be the most *famous* doings that ever were heard of upon the Downs here, the first day of next month, which will be in a fortnight, thank my stars! I wish the fortnight was over; I shall think of nothing else, I know, till that happy day comes!'

Mr. Gresham inquired, why the first of September was to be so much happier than any other day in the year.

'Why,' replied Hal, 'Lady Diana Sweepstakes, you know, is a *famous* rider, and archer, and *all that*——'

'Very likely,' said Mr. Gresham, soberly; 'but what then?'

'Dear uncle!' cried Hal, 'but you shall hear. There's to be a race upon the Downs the first of September; and after the race there's to be an archery meeting for the ladies, and Lady Diana Sweepstakes is to be one of *them*. And after the ladies have done shooting—now, Ben, comes the best part of it! we boys are to have our turn, and Lady Di' is to give a prize, to the best marksman amongst us, of a very handsome bow and arrow! Do you know I've been practising already, and I'll shew you to-morrow, as soon as it comes home, the *famous* bow and arrow, that Lady Diana has given me: but, perhaps,' added he, with a scornful laugh, 'you like a cat's cradle better than a bow and arrow.'

Ben made no reply to this taunt at the moment; but the next day, when Hal's new bow and arrow came home, he convinced him that he knew how to use it very well.

'Ben,' said his uncle, 'you seem to be a good marksman, though you have not boasted of yourself. I'll give you a bow

and arrow, and, perhaps, if you practice, you may make yourself an archer before the first of September; and, in the mean time, you will not wish the fortnight to be over, for you will have something to do.'

'O, sir,' interrupted Hal, 'but if you mean that Ben should put in for the prize, he must have a uniform.'

'Why *must* he?' said Mr. Gresham.

'Why, sir, because every body has—I mean every body that's any body; and Lady Diana was talking about the uniform all dinner time, and it's settled all about it, except the buttons; the young Sweepstakes are to get theirs made first for patterns: they are to be white, faced with green; and they'll look very handsome, I'm sure; and I shall write to mamma to-night, as Lady Diana bid me, about mine; and I shall tell her to be sure to answer my letter without fail, by return of the post: and then, if mamma makes no objection, which I know she won't, because she never thinks much about expense, and *all that*—then I shall bespeak my uniform, and get it made by the same taylor, that makes for Lady Diana and the young Sweepstakes.'

'Mercy upon us!' said Mr. Gresham, who was almost stunned by the rapid

vociferation with which this long speech about a uniform was pronounced: 'I don't pretend to understand these things,' added he, with an air of simplicity, 'but we will inquire, Ben, into the necessity of the case; and if it is necessary—or if you think it necessary, that you shall have a uniform—why—I'll give you one.'

'*You*, uncle! Will you *indeed?*' exclaimed Hal, with amazement painted in his countenance. 'Well, that's the last thing in the world I should have expected! You are not at all the sort of person I should have thought would care about a uniform; and now I should have supposed you'd have thought it extravagant, to have a coat on purpose only for one day; and I'm sure Lady Diana Sweepstakes thought as I do: for when I told her of that motto over your kitchen chimney, WASTE NOT, WANT NOT, she laughed, and said, that I had better not talk to you about uniforms, and that my mother was the proper person to write to about my uniform: but I'll tell Lady Diana, uncle, how good you are, and how much she was mistaken.

'Take care how you do that,' said Mr. Gresham; 'for perhaps the lady was not mistaken.'

'Nay, did not you say, just now, you would give poor Ben a uniform?'

'I said, I would, if he thought it necessary to have one.'

'O, I'll answer for it, he'll think it necessary,' said Hal, laughing, 'because it *is* necessary.'

'Allow him, at least, to judge for himself,' said Mr. Gresham.

'My dear uncle, but I assure you,' said Hal, earnestly, 'there's no judging about the matter, because really, upon my word, Lady Diana said distinctly, that her sons were to have uniforms, white faced with green, and a green and white cockade in their hats.'

'May be so,' said Mr. Gresham, still with the same look of calm simplicity, 'put on your hats, boys, and come with me. I know a gentleman whose sons are to be at this archery meeting; and we will inquire into all the particulars from him. Then, after we have seen him (it is not eleven o'clock yet) we shall have time enough to walk on to Bristol, and choose the cloth for Ben's uniform, if it is necessary.'

'I cannot tell what to make of all he says,' whispered Hal, as he reached down his hat;

'do you think, Ben, he means to give you this uniform, or not?'

'I think,' said Ben, 'that he means to give me one, if it is necessary; or, as he said, if I think it is necessary.'

'And that, to be sure, you will; won't you? or else you'll be a great fool, I know, after all I've told you. How can any one in the world know so much about the matter, as I, who have dined with Lady Diana Sweepstakes but yesterday, and heard all about it, from beginning to end? And as for this gentleman, that we are going to, I'm sure, if he knows any thing about the matter, he'll say exactly the same as I do.'

'We shall hear,' said Ben, with a degree of composure, which Hal could by no means comprehend, when a uniform was in question.

The gentleman upon whom Mr. Gresham called, had three sons, who were all to be at this archery meeting; and they unanimously assured him, in the presence of Hal and Ben, that they had never thought of buying uniforms for this grand occasion, and that, amongst the number of their acquaintance, they knew of but three boys, whose friends intended to be at such an *unnecessary*

expense. Hal stood amazed. 'Such are the varieties of opinion upon all the grand affairs of life,' said Mr. Gresham, looking at his nephews; 'what amongst one set of people you hear asserted to be absolutely necessary, you will hear from another set of people is quite unnecessary. All that can be done, my dear boys, in these difficult cases, is to judge for yourselves, which opinions and which people are the most reasonable.'

'Hal, who had been more accustomed to think of what was fashionable, than of what was reasonable, without at all considering the good sense of what his uncle said to him, replied, with childish petulance, 'Indeed, sir, I don't know what other people *think;* but I only know what Lady Diana Sweepstakes *said.*'

The name of Lady Diana Sweepstakes, Hal thought, must impress all present with respect: he was highly astonished, when, as he looked round, he saw a smile of contempt upon every one's countenance; and he was yet further bewildered, when he heard her spoken of as a very silly, extravagant, ridiculous woman, whose opinion no prudent person would ask upon any subject, and whose example was to be shunned, instead of being imitated.

'Aye, my dear Hal,' said his uncle smiling at his look of amazement, 'these are some of the things that young people must learn from experience. All the world do not agree in opinion about characters: you will hear the same person admired in one company, and blamed in another; so that we must still come round to the same point, *Judge for yourself.*

Hal's thoughts were, however, at present, too full of the uniform, to allow his judgment to act with perfect impartiality. As soon as their visit was over, and all the time they walked down the hill from Prince's Buildings towards Bristol, he continued to repeat nearly the same arguments which he had formerly used, respecting necessity, the uniform, and Lady Diana Sweepstakes.

To all this Mr. Gresham made no reply; and longer had the young gentleman expatiated upon the subject which had so strongly seized upon his imagination, had not his senses been forcibly assailed at this instant by the delicious odours and tempting sight of certain cakes and jellies in a pastry cook's shop.

'O uncle,' said he, as his uncle was going to turn the corner to pursue the road to Bristol, 'look at those jellies,' pointing to a

confectioner's shop, 'I must buy some of those good things; for I have got some halfpence in my pocket.'

'Your having halfpence in your pocket is an excellent reason for eating,' said Mr. Gresham, smiling.

'But I really am hungry,' said Hal; 'you know, uncle, it is a good while since breakfast.'

His uncle, who was desirous to see his nephews act without restraint, that he might judge of their characters, bid them do as they pleased.

'Come, then, Ben, if you've any halfpence in your pocket.'

'I'm not hungry,' said Ben.

'I suppose *that* means, that you've no halfpence,' said Hal, laughing, with the look of superiority, which he had been taught to think *the rich* might assume towards those who were convicted either of poverty or economy.

'Waste not, want not,' said Ben to himself. Contrary to his cousin's surmise, he happened to have two penny-worth of halfpence actually in his pocket.

At the very moment Hal stepped into the pastry-cook's shop, a poor, industrious

man with a wooden leg, who usually sweeps the dirty corner of the walk which turns at this spot to the Wells, held his hat to Ben, who, after glancing his eye at the petitioner's well worn broom, instantly produced his two-pence. 'I wish I had more halfpence for you, my good man,' said he; 'but I've only two-pence.'

Hal came out of Mr. Millar's, the confectioner's shop, with a hat full of cakes in his hand.

Mr. Millar's dog was sitting on the flags before the door; and he looked up, with a wistful, begging eye, at Hal, who was eating a queen-cake.

Hal, who was wasteful even in his goodnature, threw a whole queen-cake to the dog, who swallowed it for a single mouthful.

'There goes two-pence in the form of a queen-cake,' said Mr. Gresham.

Hal next offered some of his cakes to his uncle and cousin; but they thanked him, and refused to eat any, because, they said, they were not hungry; so he ate and ate, as he walked along, till at last he stopped and said, 'this bun tastes so bad after the queen-cakes, I can't bear it;' and he was going to fling it from him into the river.

'O, it is a pity to waste that good bun; we may be glad of it yet,' said Ben; 'give it to me, rather than throw it away.'

'Why, I thought you said you were not hungry,' said Hal.

'True, I am not hungry now; but that is no reason why I should never be hungry again.'

'Well, there is the cake for you; take it; for it has made me sick, and I don't care what becomes of it.'

Ben folded the refuse bit of his cousin's bun in a piece of paper, and put it into his pocket.

'I'm beginning to be exceedingly tired, or sick, or something,' said Hal, 'and as there is a stand of coaches somewhere hereabouts, had not we better take a coach, instead of walking all the way to Bristol?'

'For a stout archer,' said Mr. Gresham, 'you are more easily tired, than one might have expected. However with all my heart; let us take a coach: for Ben asked me to shew him the cathedral yesterday, and I believe I should find it rather too much for me to walk so far, though I am not sick with eating good things.'

'*The cathedral!*' said Hal, after he had been seated in the coach about a quarter of

an hour, and had somewhat recovered from his sickness ; 'the cathedral! Why, are we only going to Bristol to see the cathedral! I thought we came out to see about a uniform.'

There was a dulness, and melancholy kind of stupidity in Hal's countenance, as he pronounced these words, like one wakening from a dream, which made both his uncle and cousin burst out a laughing.

'Why,' said Hal, who was now piqued, 'I'm sure you *did* say, uncle, you would go to Mr. ——'s, to choose the cloth for the uniform.'

'Very true ; and so I will,' said Mr. Gresham ; 'but we need not make a whole morning's work, need we, of looking at a piece of cloth? Cannot we see a uniform and a cathedral both in one morning?'

They went first to the cathedral. Hal's head was too full of the uniform, to take any notice of the painted window, which immediately caught Ben's unembarrassed attention. He looked at the large stained figures on the gothic window ; and he observed their coloured shadows on the floor and walls.

Mr. Gresham, who perceived that he was eager on all subjects to gain information,

took this opportunity of telling him several things about the lost art of painting on glass, gothic arches, &c. which Hal thought extremely tiresome.

'Come! come! we shall be late indeed,' said Hal; 'surely you've looked long enough, Ben, at this blue and red window.'

'I'm only thinking about these coloured shadows,' said Ben.

'I can shew you, when we go home, Ben,' said his uncle, 'an entertaining paper upon such shadows.'*

'Hark!' cried Ben, 'did you hear that noise?'

They all listened; and they heard a bird singing in the cathedral.

'It's our old robin, sir,' said the lad, who had opened the cathedral door for them.

'Yes,' said Mr. Gresham, 'there he is, boys—look—perched upon the organ; he often sits there, and sings, whilst the organ is playing.'

'And,' continued the lad who shewed the cathedral, 'he has lived here these many,

* Vide Priestley's History of Vision, chapter on Coloured Shadows.

many winters; * they say he is fifteen years old; and he is so tame, poor fellow, that, if I had a bit of bread, he'd come down, and feed in my hand.

'I've a bit of a bun here,' cried Ben, joyfully, producing the remains of the bun which Hal but an hour before would have thrown away, 'pray let us see the poor robin eat out of your hand.'

The lad crumbled the bun, and called to the robin, who fluttered and chirped, and seemed rejoiced at the sight of the bread; but yet he did not come down from his pinnacle on the organ.

'He is afraid of *us*,' said Ben; 'he is not used to eat before strangers, I suppose.'

'Ah, no, sir,' said the young man, with a deep sigh, 'that is not the thing: he is used enough to eat afore company; time was, he'd have come down for me, before ever so many fine folks, and have eat his crumbs out of my hand, at my first call; but, poor fellow, it's not his fault now: he does not know me now, sir, since my accident, because of this great black patch.'

The young man put his hand to his right eye, which was covered with a huge black patch.

* This is true.

Ben asked what *accident* he meant; and the lad told him, that, but a few weeks ago, he had lost the sight of his eye by the stroke of a stone, which reached him as he was passing under the rocks at Clifton, unluckily, when the workmen were blasting.

'I don't mind so much for myself, sir,' said the lad; 'but I can't work so well now, as I used to do before my accident, for my old mother, who has had *a stroke* of the palsy; and I've a many little brothers and sisters, not well able yet to get their own livelihood, though they be as willing as willing can be.'

'Where does your mother live?' said Mr. Gresham.

'Hard by, sir, just close to the church here; it was *her* that always had the shewing of it to strangers, till she lost the use of her poor limbs.'

'Shall we, may we, uncle, go that way? This is the house, is not it?' said Ben, when they went out of the cathedral.

They went into the house: it was rather a hovel than a house; but, poor as it was, it was as neat as misery could make it.

The old woman was sitting up in her wretched bed, winding worsted; four meagre, ill-clothed, pale children, were all busy,

some of them sticking pins in paper for the pin-maker, and others sorting rags for the paper-maker.

'What a horrid place it is,' said Hal, sighing; 'I did not know there were such shocking places in the world. I've often seen terrible-looking, tumble-down places, as we drove through the town in mamma's carriage; but then I did not know who lived in them; and I never saw the inside of any of them. It is very dreadful, indeed, to think that people are forced to live in this way. I wish mamma would send me some more pocket-money, that I might do something for them. I had half a crown; but,' continued he, feeling in his pockets, 'I'm afraid I spent the last shilling of it this morning, upon those cakes that made me sick. I wish I had my shilling now, I'd give it to *these poor people*.'

Ben, though he was all this time silent, was as sorry as his talkative cousin for all these poor people. But there was some difference between the sorrow of these two boys.

Hal, after he was again seated in the hackney-coach, and had rattled through the busy streets of Bristol for a few minutes, quite forgot the spectacle of misery, which

he had seen; and the gay shops in Wine-street, and the idea of his green and white uniform wholly occupied his imagination.

'Now for our uniforms,' cried he, as he jumped eagerly out of the coach, when his uncle stopped at the woollen-draper's door.

'Uncle,' said Ben, stopping Mr. Gresham before he got out of the carriage, 'I don't think a uniform is at all necessary for me. I'm very much obliged to you; but I would rather not have one. I have a very good coat; and I think it would be waste.'

'Well, let me get out of the carriage, and we will see about it,' said Mr. Gresham; 'perhaps the sight of the beautiful green and white cloth, and the epaulette (have you ever considered the epaulettes?) may tempt you to change your mind.'

'O no,' said Ben, laughing; 'I shall not change my mind.'

The green cloth, and the white cloth, and the epaulettes, were produced, to Hal's infinite satisfaction. His uncle took up a pen, and calculated for a few minutes; then, shewing the back of the letter, upon which he was writing, to his nephews, 'cast up these sums boys,' said he, 'and tell me whether I am right.'

'Ben, do you do it,' said Hal, a little embarrassed; 'I am not quick at figures.'

Ben *was*, and he went over his uncle's calculation very expeditiously.

'It is right, is it?' said Mr. Gresham.

'Yes, sir, quite right.'

'Then by this calculation, I find I could, for less than half the money your uniforms would cost, purchase for each of you boys a warm great coat, which you will want, I have a notion, this winter, upon the Downs.'

'O, sir,' said Hal, with an alarmed look; 'but it is not winter *yet*; it is not cold weather *yet*. We shan't want great coats *yet*.'

'Don't you remember how cold we were, Hal, the day before yesterday, in that sharp wind, when we were flying our kite upon the Downs; and winter will come, though it is not come yet. I am sure, I should like to have a good, warm great coat, very much.'

Mr. Gresham took six guineas out of his purse; and he placed three of them before Hal, and three before Ben.

'Young gentlemen,' said he, 'I believe your uniforms would come to about three guineas a-piece. Now I will lay out this money for you, just as you please. Hal, what say you?'

'Why sir,' said Hal, 'a great coat is a good thing, to be sure; and then, after the great coat, as you said it would only cost half as much as the uniform, there would be some money to spare, would not there?'

'Yes, my dear, about five and twenty shillings.'

'Five and twenty shillings! I could buy, and do a great many things, to be sure, with five and twenty shillings; but then, *the thing is*, I must go without the uniform, if I have the great coat.'

'Certainly,' said his uncle.

'Ah!' said Hal, sighing, as he looked at the epaulette, 'Uncle, if you would not be displeased, if I choose the uniform——'

'I shall not be displeased at your choosing whatever you like best,' said Mr. Gresham.

'Well, then, thank you, sir; I think I had better have the uniform: because, if I have not the uniform now directly, it will be of no use to me, as the archery meeting is the week after next, you know, and as to the great coat, perhaps, between this time and the *very* cold weather, which, perhaps, won't be till Christmas, papa will buy a great coat for me; and I'll ask mamma to give

me some pocket-money to give away, and she will, perhaps.'

To all this conclusive, conditional reasoning, which depended upon *perhaps*, three times repeated, Mr. Gresham made no reply; but he immediately bought the uniform for Hal, and desired that it should be sent to Lady Diana Sweepstakes' son's taylor, to be made up. The measure of Hal's happiness was now complete.

'And how am I to lay out the three guineas for you, Ben?' said Mr. Gresham; 'Speak, what do you wish for first?'

'A great coat, uncle, if you please.'

Mr. Gresham bought the coat; and, after it was paid for, five and twenty shillings of Ben's three guineas remained.

'What next, my boy?' said his uncle.

'Arrows, uncle, if you please: three arrows.'

'My dear, I promised you a bow and arrows.'

'No, uncle, you only said a bow.'

'Well, I meant a bow and arrows. I'm glad you are so exact, however. It is better to claim less than more than what is promised. The three arrows you shall have. But, go on; how shall I dispose of these five and twenty shillings for you?'

'In clothes, if you will be so good, uncle, for that poor boy, who has the great black patch on his eye.'

'I always believed,' said Mr. Gresham, shaking hands with Ben, 'that economy and generosity were the best friends, instead of being enemies, as some silly, extravagant people would have us think them. Choose the poor blind boy's coat, my dear nephew, and pay for it. There's no occasion for my praising you about the matter: your best reward is in your own mind, child; and you want no other, or I'm mistaken. Now jump into the coach, boys, and let's be off. We shall be late, I'm afraid,' continued he, as the coach drove on; 'but I must let you stop, Ben, with your goods, at the poor boy's door.'

When they came to the house, Mr. Gresham opened the coach door, and Ben jumped out with his parcel under his arm.

'Stay, stay! you must take me with you,' said his pleased uncle; 'I like to see people made happy, as well as you do.'

'And so do I too!' said Hal; 'let me come with you. I almost wish my uniform was not gone to the taylor's, so I do.'

And when he saw the look of delight and gratitude, with which the poor boy

received the clothes which Ben gave him; and when he heard the mother and children thank him, Hal sighed, and said, 'Well, I hope mamma will give me some more pocket-money soon.'

Upon his return home, however, the sight of the *famous* bow and arrow, which Lady Diana Sweepstakes had sent him, recalled to his imagination all the joys of his green and white uniform; and he no longer wished, that it had not been sent to the taylor's.

'But I don't understand cousin Hal,' said little Patty, 'why you call this bow a *famous* bow: you say *famous* very often; and I don't know exactly what it means. A *famous* uniform—*famous* doings—I remember you said there are to be *famous* doings, the first of September, upon the Downs: what does *famous* mean?'

'O, why *famous* means——now don't you know what *famous* means? It means ——it is a word that people say——it is the fashion to say it——it means—it means *famous*.'

Patty laughed, and said, '*This* does not explain it to me.'

'No said Hal, 'nor can it be explained: if you don't understand it, that's not my fault: every body but little children, I

suppose, understands it; but there's no explaining *those sort* of words, if you don't *take them* at once. There's to be *famous* doings upon the Downs, the first of September; that is, grand, fine. In short, what does it signify talking any longer, Patty, about the matter? Give me my bow; for I must go out upon the Downs, and practise.'

Ben accompanied him with the bow and the three arrows, which his uncle had now given to him; and, every day, these two boys went out upon the Downs, and practised shooting with indefatigable perseverance. Where equal pains are taken, success is usually found to be pretty nearly equal. Our two archers, by constant practice, became expert marksmen; and before the day of trial, they were so exactly matched in point of dexterity, that it was scarcely possible to decide which was superior.

The long-expected first of September at length arrived. 'What sort of a day is it?' was the first question that was asked by Hal and Ben, the moment that they wakened.

The sun shone bright, but there was a sharp and high wind.

'Ha!' said Ben, 'I shall be glad of my good great coat to-day; for I've a notion it

will be rather cold upon the Downs, especially when we are standing still, as we must, whilst all the people are shooting.'

'O, never mind! I don't think I shall feel it cold at all,' said Hal, as he dressed himself in his new green and white uniform; and he viewed himself with much complacency.

'Good morning to you, uncle; how do you do?' said he, in a voice of exultation, when he entered the breakfast-room. How do you do? seemed rather too mean, 'How do you like me in my uniform?' And his uncle's cool, 'Very well, I thank you Hal,' disappointed him, as it seemed only to say, 'Your uniform makes no difference in my opinion of you.'

Even little Patty went on eating her breakfast much as usual, and talked of the pleasure of walking with her father to the Downs, and of all the little things which interested her, so that Hal's epaulettes were not the principal object in any one's imagination but his own.

'Papa,' said Patty, 'as we go up the hill where there is so much red mud, I must take care to pick my way nicely; and I must hold up my frock, as you desired me; and perhaps you will be so good, if I am not

troublesome, to lift me over the very bad place where there are no stepping-stones. My ancle is entirely well, and I'm glad of that, or else I should not be able to walk so far as the Downs. How good you were to me, Ben, when I was in pain, the day I sprained my ancle: you played at jack straws, and at cat's cradle, with me. O, that puts me in mind—here are your gloves, which I asked you that night to let me mend. I've been a great while about them, but are not they very neatly mended, papa? Look at the sewing.'

'I am not a very good judge of sewing, my dear little girl,' said Mr. Gresham, examining the work with a close and scrupulous eye; 'but, in my opinion, here is one stitch, that is rather too long; the white teeth are not quite even.'

'O, papa, I'll take out that long tooth in a minute,' said Patty, laughing: 'I did not think that you would have observed it so soon.'

'I would not have you trust to my blindness,' said her father, stroking her head fondly: 'I observe every thing. I observe, for instance, that you are a grateful little girl, and that you are glad to be of use to

those who have been kind to you; and for this, I forgive you the long stitch.'

'But it's out, it's out, papa,' said Patty, 'and the next time your gloves want mending, Ben, I'll mend them better.'

'They are very nice I think,' said Ben, drawing them on; 'and I am much obliged to you; I was just wishing I had a pair of gloves to keep my fingers warm to-day, for I never can shoot well when my hands are numbed. Look, Hal—you know how ragged these gloves were; you said they were good for nothing but to throw away; now look, there's not a hole in them,' said he, spreading his fingers.

'Now, is it not very extraordinary,' said Hal to himself, 'that they should go on so long talking about an old pair of gloves, without saying scarcely a word about my new uniform? Well, the young Sweepstakes and Lady Diana will talk enough about it; that's one comfort.'

'Is not it time, to think of setting out, sir?' said Hal to his uncle; 'the company, you know, are to meet at the Ostrich at twelve, and the race to begin at one, and Lady Diana's horses, I know, were ordered to be at the door at ten.'

Mr. Stephen, the butler, here interrupted the hurrying young gentleman in his calculations—'There's a poor lad, sir, below, with a great black patch on his right eye, who is come from Bristol, and wants to speak a word with the young gentlemen, if you please. I told him they were just going out with you, but he says he won't detain them above half a minute.'

'Shew him up, shew him up,' said Mr. Gresham.

'But I suppose,' said Hal, with a sigh, 'that Stephen mistook, when he said the young *gentlemen;* he only wants to see Ben, I dare say; I'm sure he has no reason to want to see me.'

'Here he comes. O, Ben, he is dressed in the new coat you gave him!' whispered Hal, who was really a good-natured boy, though extravagant. 'How much better he looks than he did in the ragged coat! Ah! he looked at you first Ben; and well he may!'

The boy bowed, without any cringing civility, but with an open, decent freedom in his manner, which expressed that he had been obliged, but that he knew his young benefactor was not thinking of the obligation. He made as little distinction as

possible between his bows to the two cousins.

'As I was sent with a message, by the clerk of our parish, to Redland chapel, out on the Downs, to-day, sir,' said he to Mr. Gresham, 'knowing your house lay in my way, my mother, sir, bid me call, and make bold to offer the young gentlemen two little worsted balls that she had worked for them,' continued the lad, pulling out of his pocket two worsted balls worked in green and orange-coloured stripes: 'they are but poor things, sir, she bid me say, to look at, but, considering she has but one hand to work with, and *that* her left hand, you'll not despise 'em, we hopes.'

He held the balls to Ben and Hal. 'They are both alike gentlemen,' said he; 'if you'll be pleased to take 'em, they're better than they look, for they bound higher than your head; I cut the cork round for the inside myself, which was all I could do.'

'They are nice balls, indeed; we are much obliged to you,' said the boys as they received them, and they proved them immediately. The balls struck the floor with a delightful sound, and rebounded higher than Mr. Gresham's head. Little Patty clapped her hands joyfully; but now

a thundering double rap at the door was heard.

'The Master Sweepstakes, sir,' said Stephen, 'are come for Master Hal; they say, that all the young gentlemen who have archery uniforms are to walk together, in a body, I think they say, sir; and they are to parade along the Well walk, they desired me to say, sir, with a drum and fife, and so up the hill by Prince's Place, and all to go upon the Downs together, to the place of meeting. I am not sure I'm right, sir, for both the young gentlemen spoke at once, and the wind is very high at the street door, so that I could not well make out all they said; but I believe this is the sense of it.'

'Yes, yes,' said Hal, eagerly, 'it's all right; I know that is just what was settled the day I dined at Lady Diana's; and Lady Diana and a great party of gentlemen are to ride——'

'Well, that is nothing to the purpose,' interrupted Mr. Gresham, 'don't keep these Master Sweepstakes waiting; decide—do you choose to go with them, or with us?'

'Sir—uncle—sir, you know, since all the *uniforms* agreed to go together—'

'Off with you, then, Mr. Uniform, if you mean to go,' said Mr. Gresham.

Hal ran down stairs in such a hurry, that he forgot his bow and arrows. Ben discovered this, when he went to fetch his own; and the lad from Bristol, who had been ordered by Mr. Gresham to eat his breakfast, before he proceeded to Redland chapel, heard Ben talking about his cousin's bow and arrows.

'I know,' said Ben, 'he will be sorry not to have his bow with him, because here are the green knots tied to it, to match his cockade; and he said, that the boys were all to carry their bows, as part of the show.'

'If you'll give me leave, sir,' said the poor Bristol lad, 'I shall have plenty of time; and I'll run down to the Well-walk after the young gentleman, and take him his bow and arrows.'

'Will you? I shall be much obliged to you,' said Ben; and away went the boy with the bow that was ornamented with green ribands.

The public walk leading to the Wells was full of company. The windows of all the houses in St. Vincent's parade were crowded with well-dressed ladies, who were looking out in expectation of the archery procession. Parties of gentlemen and ladies,

and a motley crowd of spectators, were seen moving backwards and forwards, under the rocks, on the opposite side of the water. A barge, with coloured streamers flying, was waiting to take up a party, who were going upon the water. The bargemen rested upon their oars, and gazed with broad faces of curiosity upon the busy scene that appeared on the public walk.

The archers and archeresses were now drawn up on the flags under the semi-circular piazza just before Mrs. Yearsley's library. A little band of children, who had been mustered by Lady Diana Sweepstakes' *spirited exertions*, closed the procession. They were now all in readiness. The drummer only waited for her ladyship's signal; and the archers' corps only waited for her ladyship's word of command to march.

'Where are your bow and arrows, my little man?' said her Ladyship to Hal, as she reviewed her Lilliputian regiment. 'You can't march, man, without your arms!'

Hal had dispatched a messenger for his forgotten bow, but the messenger returned not; he looked from side to side in great distress. 'O, there's my bow coming, I declare!' cried he—look, I see the bow and the ribands;—look now, between the

trees, Charles Sweepstakes, on the Hotwell-walk—it is coming!'

'But you've kept us all waiting a confounded time,' said his impatient friend.

'It is that good-natured poor fellow from Bristol, I protest, that has brought it me; I'm sure I don't deserve it from him,' said Hal to himself, when he saw the lad with the black patch on his eye, running quite out of breath, towards him, with his bow and arrows.

'Fall back, my good friend, fall back,' said the military lady, as soon as he had delivered the bow to Hal; 'I mean, stand out of the way; for your great patch cuts no figure amongst us. Don't follow so close, now, as if you belonged to us, pray.'

The poor boy had no ambition to partake the triumph; he *fell back* as soon as he understood the meaning of the lady's words. The drum beat, the fife played, the archers marched, the spectators admired. Hal stepped proudly, and felt as if the eyes of the whole universe were upon his epaulettes, or upon the facings of his uniform; whilst all the time he was considered only as part of a show. The walk appeared much shorter than usual, and he was extremely sorry, that Lady Diana, when they

were half way up the hill leading to Prince's Place, mounted her horse, because the road was dirty, and all the gentlemen and ladies, who accompanied her, followed her example. 'We can leave the children to walk, you know,' said she to the gentleman who helped her to mount her horse. 'I must call to some of them, though, and leave orders where they are to *join*.'

She beckoned; and Hal, who was foremost, and proud to shew his alacrity, ran on to receive her Ladyship's orders. Now, as we have before observed, it was a sharp and windy day; and though Lady Diana Sweepstakes was actually speaking to him, and looking at him, he could not prevent his nose from wanting to be blowed: he pulled out his handkerchief, and out rolled the new ball, which had been given to him just before he left home, and which, according to his usual careless habits, he had stuffed into his pocket in his hurry. 'O, my new ball!' cried he, as he ran after it. As he stooped to pick it up, he let go his hat, which he had hitherto held on with anxious care; for the hat, though it had a fine green and white cockade, had no band or string round it. The string, as we may recollect, our wasteful hero had used in

spinning his top. The hat was too large for his head without this band; a sudden gust of wind blew it off—Lady Diana's horse started, and reared. She was a *famous* horsewoman, and sat him to the admiration of all beholders; but there was a puddle of red clay and water in this spot, and her ladyship's uniform-habit was a sufferer by the accident.

'Careless brat!' said she, 'why can't he keep his hat upon his head?'

In the mean time, the wind blew the hat down the hill, and Hal ran after it, amidst the laughter of his kind friends, the young Sweeptakes, and the rest of the little regiment. The hat was lodged, at length, upon a bank. Hal pursued it; he thought this bank was hard, but, alas! the moment he set his foot upon it, the foot sunk. He tried to draw it back, his other foot slipped, and he fell prostrate, in his green and white uniform, into the treacherous bed of red mud. His companions, who had halted upon the top of the hill, stood laughing spectators of his misfortune.

It happened that the poor boy with the black patch upon his eye, who had been ordered by Lady Diana to '*fall back*,' and to '*keep at a distance*,' was now coming up the

hill; and the moment he saw our fallen hero, he hastened to his assistance. He dragged poor Hal, who was a deplorable spectacle, out of the red mud; the obliging mistress of a lodging house, as soon as she understood that the young gentleman was nephew to Mr. Gresham, to whom she had formerly let her house, received Hal, covered as he was with dirt.

The poor Bristol lad hastened to Mr. Gresham's for clean stockings and shoes for Hal. He was unwilling to give up his uniform; it was rubbed and rubbed, and a spot here and there was washed out; and he kept continually repeating, 'When it's dry it will all brush off, when it's dry, it will all brush off, won't it?' But soon, the fear of being too late at the archery-meeting began to balance the dread of appearing in his stained habiliments; and he now as anxiously repeated, whilst the woman held the wet coat to the fire, 'O, I shall be too late; indeed I shall be too late; make haste; it will never dry; hold it nearer—nearer to the fire: I shall lose my turn to shoot. O, give me the coat; I don't mind how it is, if I can but get it on.'

Holding it nearer and nearer to the fire dried it quickly, to be sure, but it shrunk it

also; so that it was no easy matter to get the coat on again. However, Hal, who did not see the red splashes, which in spite of all these operations, were too visible upon his shoulders, and upon the skirts of his white coat behind, was pretty well satisfied to observe that there was not one spot upon the facings. 'Nobody,' said he, 'will take notice of my coat behind, I dare say. I think it looks as smart almost as ever!' and under this persuasion our young archer resumed his bow—his bow with green ribands now no more!—and he pursued his way to the Downs.

All his companions were far out of sight. 'I suppose,' said he to his friend with the black patch, 'I suppose my uncle and Ben had left home before you went for the shoes and stockings for me?'

'O, yes, sir; the butler said they had been gone to the Downs a matter of a good half hour or more.'

Hal trudged on as fast as he possibly could. When he got upon the Downs, he saw numbers of carriages, and crowds of people, all going towards the place of meeting, at the Ostrich. He pressed forwards; he was at first so much afraid of being late, that he did not take notice of the mirth his motley

appearance excited in all beholders. At length he reached the appointed spot. There was a great crowd of people: in the midst, he heard Lady Diana's loud voice, betting upon some one, who was just going to shoot at the mark.

'So then, the shooting is begun, is it?' said Hal. 'O, let me in; pray let me into the circle; I'm one of the archers—I am indeed; don't you see my green and white uniform?'

'Your red and white uniform, you mean,' said the man to whom he addressed himself; and the people, as they opened a passage for him, could not refrain from laughing at the mixture of dirt and finery, which it exhibited. In vain, when he got into the midst of the formidable circle, he looked to his friends, the young Sweepstakes, for their countenance and support: they were amongst the most unmerciful of the laughers. Lady Diana also seemed more to enjoy than to pity his confusion.

'Why could not you keep your hat upon your head, man?' said she, in her masculine tone. 'You have been almost the ruin of my poor uniform-habit; but thank God, I've escaped rather better than you have. Don't stand there, in the middle of the

circle, or you'll have an arrow in your eyes just now, I've a notion.'

Hal looked round, in search of better friends. 'O, where's my uncle?—where's Ben?' said he. He was in such confusion, that, amongst the number of faces, he could scarcely distinguish one from another; but he felt somebody at this moment pull his elbow, and, to his great relief, he heard the friendly voice, and saw the good-natured face of his cousin Ben.

'Come back; come behind these people,' said Ben; 'and put on my great coat; here it is for you.'

Right glad was Hal to cover his disgraced uniform with a rough great coat, which he had formerly despised. He pulled the stained, drooping cockade out of his unfortunate hat; and he was now sufficiently recovered from his vexation, to give an intelligible account of his accident to his uncle and Patty, who anxiously inquired what had detained him so long, and what had been the matter. In the midst of the history of his disaster, he was just proving to Patty, that his taking the hat-band to spin his top had nothing to do with his misfortune; and he was at the same time endeavouring to refute his uncle's opinion, that the

waste of the whip-cord that tied the parcel, was the original cause of all his evils, when he was summoned to try his skill with his *famous* bow.

'My hands are numbed; I can scarcely feel;' said he, rubbing them, and blowing upon the ends of his fingers.

'Come, come,' cried young Sweepstakes, 'I'm within one inch of the mark; who'll go nearer, I shall like to see. Shoot away, Hal; but first understand our laws; we settled them before you came upon the green. You are to have three shots, with your own bow and your own arrows; and nobody's to borrow or lend, under pretence of other bows being better or worse, or under any pretence. Do you hear, Hal?'

This young gentleman had good reasons for being so strict in these laws, as he had observed, that none of his companions had such an excellent bow as he had provided for himself. Some of the boys had forgotten to bring more than one arrow with them; and by his cunning regulations, that each person should shoot with their own arrows, many had lost one or two of their shots.

'You are a lucky fellow; you have your three arrows,' said young Sweepstakes.

'Come, we can't wait whilst you rub your fingers, man; shoot away.'

Hal was rather surprised at the asperity with which his friend spoke. He little knew how easily acquaintance, who call themselves friends, can change, when their interest comes in the slightest degree in competition with their friendship. Hurried by his impatient rival, and with his hands so much benumbed, that he could scarcely feel how to fix the arrow in the string, he drew the bow. The arrow was within a quarter of an inch of Master Sweepstakes' mark, which was the nearest that had yet been hit. Hal seized his second arrow. 'If I have any luck,' said he——But just as he pronounced the word *luck*, and as he bent the bow, the string broke in two, and the bow fell from his hands.

'There, it's all over with you,' cried Master Sweepstakes, with a triumphant laugh.

'Here's my bow for him, and welcome,' said Ben.

'No, no, sir; that is not fair; that's against the regulation. You may shoot with your own bow, if you choose it, or you may not, just as you think proper; but you must not lend it, sir.'

It was now Ben's turn to make his trial. His first arrow was not successful. His second was exactly as near as Hal's first.

'You have but one more,' said Master Sweepstakes: 'now for it!'

Ben, before he ventured his last arrow, prudently examined the string of his bow; and, as he pulled it to try its strength, it cracked.

Master Sweepstakes clapped his hands with loud exultations, and insulting laughter. But his laughter ceased, when our provident hero calmly drew from his pocket an excellent piece of whip-cord.

'The everlasting whip-cord, I declare!' exclaimed Hal, when he saw that it was the very same, that had tied up the parcel.

'Yes,' said Ben, as he fastened it to his bow, 'I put it into my pocket to-day, on purpose, because I thought I might happen to want it.'

He drew his bow the third and last time.

'O, papa,' cried little Patty, as his arrow hit the mark, 'it's the nearest; is not it the nearest?'

Master Sweepstakes, with anxiety, examined the hit. There could be no doubt. Ben was victorious! The bow, the prize

bow was now delivered to him ; and Hal, as he looked at the whip-cord, exclaimed, 'How *lucky* this whip-cord has been to you, Ben!'

'It is *lucky*, perhaps, you mean, that he took care of it,' said Mr. Gresham.

'Aye,' said Hal, 'very true ; he might well say, 'Waste not, want not ;' it is a good thing to have two strings to one's bow.'

FORGIVE AND FORGET.

IN the neighbourhood of a sea-port town in the west of England, there lived a gardener, who had one son, called Maurice, of whom he was very fond. One day his father sent him to the neighbouring town, to purchase some garden seeds for him. When Maurice got to the seed-shop, it was full of people, who were all impatient to be served; first, a great tall man, and next, a great fat woman pushed before him, and he stood quietly beside the counter, waiting till somebody should be at leisure to attend to him. At length, when all the other people who were in the shop had got what they wanted, the shopman turned to Maurice—'And what do you want, my patient little fellow?' said he.

'I want all these seeds for my father,' said Maurice, putting a list of seeds into the shopman's hand; 'and I have brought money, to pay for them all.'

The seedman looked out all the seeds that Maurice wanted, and packed them up in paper: he was folding up some painted-lady pease, when, from a door at the back of the shop, there came in a square, rough-faced man, who exclaimed, the moment he came in, 'Are the seeds I ordered ready? The wind's fair—they ought to have been aboard yesterday. And my china jar, is it packed up and directed? where is it?'

'It is up there on the shelf over your head, sir,' answered the seedman, 'it is very safe you see, but we have not had time to pack it yet; it shall be done to-day, and we will get the seeds ready for you, sir, immediately.'

'Immediately! then stir about it. The seeds will not pack themselves up—make haste, pray.'

'Immediately, sir, as soon as I have done up the parcel for this little boy.'

'What signifies the parcel for this little boy? he can wait and I cannot: wind and tide wait for no man. Here my good lad, take your parcel, and sheer off,' said the impatient man; and, as he spoke, he took up the parcel of seeds from the counter, as the shopman stooped to look for a sheet of thick brown paper and pack-thread, to tie it up.

The parcel was but loosely folded up, and as the impatient man lifted it, the weight of the pease, which were within-side of it, burst the paper, and all the seeds fell out upon the floor, whilst Maurice in vain held his hands to catch them. The pease rolled to all parts of the shop, the impatient man swore at them, but Maurice, without being out of humour, set about collecting them as fast as possible. Whilst he was busied in this manner, the man got what seeds he wanted, and, as he was talking about them, a sailor came into the shop, and said 'Captain, the wind has changed within these five minutes, and it looks as if we should have ugly weather.'

'Well, I'm glad of it,' replied the rough-faced man, who was the captain of the ship. 'I am glad to have a day longer to stay ashore, for I've business enough on my hands.'

'The captain pushed forwards towards the shop door. Maurice, who was kneeling on the floor, picking up his seeds, saw that the captain's foot was entangled in some packthread, which hung down from the shelf, on which the china jar stood. Maurice saw, that, if the captain took one more step forward, he must pull the string, so that it

would throw down the jar, round the bottom of which the packthread was entangled. He immediately caught hold of the captain's leg, and stopped him—'Stay! stand still sir,' said he, or you will break your china jar.'

The man stood still, looked, and saw how the packthread had caught in his shoe-buckle, and how it was near dragging down his beautiful china jar. 'I am really very much obliged to you, my little fellow,' said he; 'you have saved my jar, which I would not have broken for ten guineas; for it is for my wife, and I've brought it safe from abroad many a league; it would have been a pity if I had broken it just when it was safe landed. I am really much obliged to you, my little fellow; this was returning good for evil. I am sorry I threw down your seeds, as you are such a good-natured, forgiving boy. Be so kind,' continued he, turning to the shopman, 'as to reach down that china jar for me.'

The shopman lifted down the jar very carefully, and the captain took off the cover, and pulled out some tulip roots. 'You seem, by the quantity of seeds you have got, to belong to a gardener. Are you fond of gardening?' said he to Maurice.

'Yes, sir,' replied Maurice, 'very fond of it; for my father is a gardener, and he lets me help him at his work, and he has given me a little garden of my own.'

'Then here are a couple of tulip roots for you; and if you take care of them, I'll promise you that you will have the finest tulips in England in your little garden. These tulips were given to me by a Dutch merchant, who told me, that they were some of the rarest and finest in Holland. They will prosper with you, I'm sure, wind and weather permitting.'

Maurice thanked the gentleman, and returned home, eager to shew his precious tulip roots to his father, and to a companion of his, the son of a nurseryman who lived near him. Arthur was the name of the nurseryman's son.

The first thing Maurice did, after shewing his tulip roots to his father, was to run to Arthur's garden, in search of him. Their gardens were separated only by a low wall of loose stones: 'Arthur! Arthur! where are you? Are you in your garden? I want you.' But Arthur made no answer, and did not, as usual, come running to meet his friend. 'I know where you are,' continued Maurice, 'and I'm coming to you as fast

as the raspberry bushes will let me. I have good news for you—something you'll be delighted to see, Arthur! Ha!—but here is something that I am not delighted to see, I am sure,' said poor Maurice, who, when he had got through the raspberry bushes, and had come in sight of his own garden, beheld his bell-glass—his beloved bell-glass, under which his cucumbers were growing so finely—his only bell-glass, broken to pieces!

'I am sorry for it,' said Arthur, who stood leaning upon his spade in his own garden: 'I am afraid you will be very angry with me.'

'Why, was it you, Arthur, broke my bell-glass? O, how could you do so?'

'I was throwing weeds and rubbish over the wall, and by accident, a great lump of couch grass, with stones hanging to the roots, fell upon your bell-glass, and broke it as you see.'

Maurice lifted up the lump of couch grass, which had fallen through the broken glass upon his cucumbers, and he looked at his cucumbers for a moment in silence. 'O, my poor cucumbers! you must all die now; I shall see all your yellow flowers withered to morrow: but it is done, and it

cannot be helped; so, Arthur, let us say no more about it.'

'You are very good; I thought you would have been angry. I am sure, I should have been exceedingly angry, if you had broken the glass, if it had been mine.'

'O, forgive and forget, as my father always says; that's the best way. Look what I have got for you.' Then he told Arthur the story of the captain of the ship, and the china jar; of the seeds having been thrown down, and of the fine tulip roots, which had been given to him; and Maurice concluded by offering one of the precious roots to Arthur, who thanked him with great joy, and repeatedly said 'How good you were, not to be angry with me for breaking your bell-glass: I am much more sorry for it, than if you had been in a passion with me!'

Arthur now went to plant his tulip root; and Maurice looked at the beds which his companion had been digging, and at all the things which were coming up in his garden.

'I don't know how it is,' said Arthur, 'but you always seem as glad to see the things in my garden coming up, and doing well, as if they were all your own. I am much happier since my father came to live

here, and since you and I have been allowed to work and to play together, than I ever was before; for you must know, before we came to live here, I had a cousin in the house with me, who used to plague me: he was not nearly so good-natured as you are, he never took pleasure in looking at my garden, or at any thing that I did, that was well done; and he never gave me a share of any thing that he had; and so I did not like him: how could I? But I believe, that hating people makes us unhappy; for I know I never was happy, when I was quarrelling with him; and I am always happy with you, Maurice; you know we never quarrel.'

It would be well for all the world, if they could be convinced, like Arthur, that to live in friendship is better than to quarrel; it would be well for all the world, if they followed Maurice's maxim of 'Forgive and forget,' when they receive, or when they imagine that they receive, an injury.

Arthur's father, Mr. Oakly, the nurseryman, was apt to take offence at trifles; and when he thought that any of his neighbours disobliged him, he was too proud to ask them to explain their conduct; therefore he was often mistaken in his judgment of them. He thought, that it shewed *spirit*

to remember and to resent an injury; and therefore, though he was not an ill-natured man, he was sometimes led, by this mistaken idea of *spirit*, to do ill-natured things: 'A warm friend, and a bitter enemy,' was one of his maxims, and he had many more enemies than friends. He was not very rich, but he was proud; and his favourite proverb was, 'Better live in spite than in pity.'

When first he settled near Mr. Grant the gardener, he felt inclined to dislike him, because he was told that Mr. Grant was a Scotchman, and he had a prejudice against Scotchmen, all of whom he believed to be cunning and avaricious, because he had once been over-reached by a Scotch pedlar. Grant's friendly manners, in some degree, conquered this prepossession; but still he secretly suspected, that *this civility*, as he said, *was all show*, and *that he was not, nor could not, being a Scotchman, be such a hearty friend as a true-born Englishman.*

Grant had some remarkable fine raspberries. The fruit was so large as to be quite a curiosity. When it was in season, many strangers came from the neighbouring town, which was a sea-bathing place, to look at these raspberries, which obtained the name of *Brobdignag* raspberries.

'How came you, pray, neighbour Grant, if a man may ask, by these wonderful fine raspberries?' said Mr. Oakly, one evening to the gardener.

'That's a secret,' replied Grant, with an arch smile.

'O, in case it's a secret, I've no more to say; for I never meddle with any man's secrets, that he does not choose to trust me with. But I wish, neighbour Grant, you would put down that book. You are always poring over some book or another, when a man comes to see you, which is not, according to my notions (being a plain, *unlarned* Englishman bred and born) so civil and neighbourly as might be.'

Mr. Grant hastily shut his book, but remarked with a shrewd glance at his son, that it was in that book he found his Brobdignag raspberries.

'You are pleased to be pleasant upon them that have not the luck to be as book-*larned* as yourself, Mr. Grant; but I take it, being only a plain-spoken Englishman, as I observed afore, that one is to the full as like to find a raspberry in one's garden, as in one's book, Mr. Grant.'

Grant, observing that his neighbour spoke rather in a surly tone, did not contradict

him: being well versed in the bible, he knew that 'A soft word turneth away wrath;' and he answered in a good-humoured voice, 'I hear, neighbour Oakly, you are likely to make a great deal of money of your nursery, this year. Here's to the health of you and yours, not forgetting the seedling larch, which I see are coming on finely.'

'Thank ye, neighbour, kindly: the larch are coming on tolerably well, that's certain; and here's to your good health, Mr. Grant—you and your's, not forgetting your what d'ye call 'em raspberries'——*(drinks and after a pause resumes)*—'I'm not apt to be a beggar, neighbour, but if you could give me——'

Here Mr. Oakly was interrupted by the entrance of some strangers, and he did not finish making his request. Mr. Oakly was not, as he said of himself, apt to ask favours, and nothing but Grant's cordiality could have conquered his prejudices, so far as to tempt him to ask a favour from a Scotchman. He was going to have asked for some of the Brobdignag raspberry-plants. The next day the thought of the raspberry-plants recurred to his memory, but being a bashful man, he did not like to go himself on

purpose to make his petition, and he desired his wife, who was just setting out to market, to call at Grant's gate, and, if he was at work in his garden, to ask him for a few plants of his raspberries.

The answer which Oakly's wife brought to him was, that Mr. Grant had not a raspberry plant in the world to give him, and that if he had ever so many he would not give one away, except to his own son. Oakly flew into a passion when he received this message, declared it was just such a mean, shabby trick as might have been expected from a Scotchman; called himself a booby, a dupe, and a blockhead, for ever having trusted to the civil speeches of a Scotchman; swore that he would die in the parish workhouse, before he would ever ask another favour, be it never so small, from a Scotchman; related for the hundredth time to his wife, the way in which he had been taken in by the Scotch pedlar ten years ago, and concluded by forswearing all further intercourse with Mr. Grant, and all belonging to him.

'Son Arthur,' said he, addressing himself to the boy, who just then came in from work; 'Son Arthur, do you hear me, let me never again see you with Grant's son.'

'With Maurice, father?'

'With Maurice Grant, I say; I forbid you from this day and hour forward to have any thing to do with him.'

'O, why, dear father?'

'Ask me no questions, but do as I bid you.'

Arthur burst out a crying, and only said, 'Yes, father, I'll do as you bid me, to be sure.'

'Why now, what does the boy cry for? Is there no other boy, simpleton, think you, to play with, but this Scotchman's son? I'll find out another playfellow for ye, child, if that be all.'

'That's not all, father,' said Arthur, trying to stop himself from sobbing; 'but the thing is, I shall never have such another playfellow; I shall never have such another friend as Maurice Grant.'

'Ah, poor fool!' said his father, pressing his son's head to him, 'thee be'est just such another as thy father—ready to be taken in by a fair word or so. But when you've lived as long as I have, you'll find that friends are not as plenty as blackberries, and don't grow upon every bush.'

'No, indeed, I don't think they do,' said Arthur; 'I never had a friend before, and I shall never have such another as Maurice Grant.'

'Like father like son—you may think yourself well off to have done with him.'

'Done with him! O, father, and shall I never go again to work in his garden, and may he not come to mine?'

'No,' replied Oakly, sturdily; 'his father has used me uncivil, and no man shall use me uncivil twice. I say no. Wife, sweep up this hearth. Boy, don't take on like a fool, but eat thy bacon and greens, and let's hear no more of Maurice Grant.'

Arthur promised to obey his father: he only begged that he might once more speak to Maurice, and tell him, that it was by his father's orders he acted. This request was granted; but when Arthur further begged to know what reason he might give for this separation, his father refused to tell his reasons.

The two friends took leave of one another very sorrowfully. Mr. Grant, when he heard of all this, endeavoured to discover what could have offended his neighbour; but all explanation was prevented by the obstinate silence of Oakly.

Now the message which Grant really sent about the Brobdignag raspberries, was somewhat different from that which Mr. Oakly received. The message was, that the rasp-

berries were not Mr. Grant's, that therefore he had no right to give them away; that they belonged to his son Maurice, and that this was not the right time of year for planting them. This message had been unluckily misunderstood. Grant gave his answer to his wife; she to a Welsh servant girl, who did not perfectly comprehend her mistress's broad Scotch; and she, in her turn, could not make herself intelligible to Mrs. Oakly, who hated the Welsh accent, and whose attention, when the servant girl delivered the message, was principally engrossed by the management of her own horse. The horse on which Mrs. Oakly rode this day being ill broken, would not stand still quietly at the gate, and she was extremely impatient to receive her answer, and to ride on to market. On such slight things do the quarrels of neighbours often depend.

Oakly, when he had once resolved to dislike his neighbour Grant, could not long remain without finding out fresh causes of complaint. There was in Grant's garden a plum-tree, which was planted close to the loose stone wall, that divided the garden from the nursery. The soil in which the plum-tree was planted, happened not to be quite so good, as that which was on the

opposite side of the wall, and the plum-tree had forced its way through the wall, and gradually had taken possession of the ground which it liked best. Oakly thought the plum-tree, as it belonged to Mr. Grant, had no right to make its appearance on his ground: an attorney told him, that he might oblige Grant to cut it down; but Mr. Grant refused to cut down his plum-tree at the attorney's desire, and the attorney persuaded Oakly to go to law about the business, and the lawsuit went on for some months. The attorney, at the end of this time, came to Oakly, with a demand for money to carry on his suit, assuring him, that in a short time it would be determined in his favour. Oakly paid his attorney ten golden guineas, remarked that it was a great sum for him to pay, and that nothing but the love of justice could make him persevere in this lawsuit about a bit of ground, 'which after all,' said he, 'is not worth two-pence. The plum-tree does me little or no damage, but I don't like to be imposed upon by a Scotchman.'

The attorney saw, and took advantage of Oakly's prejudice against the natives of Scotland; and he persuaded him, that to shew the *spirit* of a true-born English-

man, it was necessary, whatever it might cost him, to persist in this lawsuit.

It was soon after this conversation with the attorney, that Mr. Oakly walked with resolute steps towards the plum-tree, saying to himself, 'If it cost me a hundred pound, I will not let this cunning Scotchman get the better of me.'

Arthur interrupted his father's reverie, by pointing to a book and some young plants, which lay upon the wall. 'I fancy father,' said he, 'those things are for you, for there is a little note directed to you, in Maurice's hand writing:—shall I bring it to you?'

'Yes, let me read it child, since I must.'

It contained these words:

'Dear Mr. Oakly,

'I don't know why you have quarrelled with us; I am very sorry for it. But though you are angry with me, I am not angry with you. I hope you will not refuse some of my Brobdignag raspberry plants, which you asked for a great while ago, when we were all good friends. It was not the right time of year to plant them then, which was the reason they were not sent to you: but it is just the right time to plant them now; and I send you

the book, in which you will find the reason why we always put sea-weed ashes about their roots: and I have got some sea-weed ashes for you. You will find the ashes in the flower-pot upon the wall. I have never spoken to Arthur, nor he to me, since you bid us not. So wishing your Brobdignag raspberries may turn out as well as ours, and longing to be all friends again, I am, with love to dear Arthur, and self,

'Your affectionate neighbour's son,

'MAURICE GRANT.'

'P. S. It is now four months since the quarrel began; and that is a very long while.'

A great part of the effect of this letter was lost upon Oakly, because he was not very expert at reading writing, and it cost him much trouble to spell it, and put it together. However, he seemed touched by it, and said, 'I believe this Maurice loves you well enough, Arthur, and he seems a good sort of a boy; but as to the raspberries, I believe all that he says about them is but an excuse; and at any rate, as I could not get 'em when I asked for them, I'll not have them now. Do you hear me, I say, Arthur? what are you reading there?'

Arthur was reading the page that was doubled down in the book, which Maurice had left along with the raspberry plants upon the wall. Arthur read aloud as follows:

(Monthly Magazine, Dec. '98, page 421.)

'There is a sort of strawberry cultivated at Jersey, which is almost covered with sea-weed in the winter, in like manner as many plants in England are with litter from the stable. These strawberries are usually of the largeness of a middle sized apricot, and the flavour is particularly grateful. In Jersey and Guernsey, situate scarcely one degree farther south than Cornwall, all kinds of fruit, pulse, and vegetables, are produced in their seasons a fortnight or three weeks sooner than in England, even on the southern shores; and snow will scarcely remain twenty-four hours on the earth. Although this may be attributed to these islands being surrounded with a salt, and consequently a moist atmosphere, yet these ashes (sea-weed ashes) made use of as manure, may also have their portion of influence.'*

* It is necessary to observe, that this experiment has never been actually tried upon raspberry plants.

'And here,' continued Arthur, 'is something written with a pencil, on a slip of paper, and it is Maurice's writing. I will read it to you.'

'When I read in this book what is said about the strawberries growing as large as apricots, after they had been covered over with sea-weed, I thought that, perhaps, sea-weed ashes might be good for my father's raspberries; and I asked him if he would give me leave to try them. He gave me leave, and I went directly and gathered together some sea-weed that had been cast on shore; and I dried it, and burned it, and then I manured the raspberries with it, and the year afterwards the raspberries grew to the size that you have seen. Now, the reason I tell you this, is; first, that you may know how to manage your raspberries, and next, because I remember you looked very grave, and as if you were not pleased with my father, Mr. Grant, when he told you, that the way by which he came by his Brobdignag raspberries was a secret. Perhaps this was the thing, that has made you so angry with us all; for you never have come to see father since that evening. Now I have told you all I know; and so I hope you will not be angry with us any longer.'

Mr. Oakly was much pleased by this openness, and said, 'Why now, Arthur, this is something like; this is telling one the thing one wants to know, without fine speeches. This is like an Englishman more than a Scotchman. Pray, Arthur, do you know whether your friend Maurice was born in England or in Scotland?'

'No, indeed, sir, I don't know—I never asked—I did not think it signified. All I know, is, that wherever he was born he is *very* good. Look, papa, my tulip is blowing.'

'Upon my word, this will be a beautiful tulip.'

'It was given to me by Maurice.'

'And did you give him nothing for it?'

'Nothing in the world; and he gave it to me just at the time when he had good cause to be very angry with me, just when I had broken his bell-glass.'

'I have a great mind to let you play together again,' said Arthur's father.

'O, if you would,' cried Arthur, clapping his hands, 'how happy we should be; do you know, father, I have often sat for an hour at a time up in that crab-tree, looking at Maurice at work in his garden, and wishing that I was at work with him. My garden, look ye, father, is not nearly in such

good order as it used to be; but every thing would go right again if——'

Here Arthur was interrupted by the attorney, who came to ask Mr. Oakly some question about the lawsuit concerning the plum-tree. Oakly shewed him Maurice's letter; and to Arthur's extreme astonishment, the attorney had no sooner read it, than he exclaimed, 'What an artful little gentleman this is! I never, in the course of all my practice, met with any thing better. Why, this is the most cunning letter I ever read.'

'Where's the cunning?' said Oakly, and he put on his spectacles.

'My good sir, don't you see, that all this stuff about Brobdignag raspberries is to ward off your suit about the plum-tree? They know—that is, Mr. Grant, who is sharp enough, knows—that he will be worsted in that suit; that he must, in short, pay you a good round sum for damages, if it goes on.'

'Damages!' said Oakly, staring round him at the plum-tree: 'but I don't know what you mean. I mean nothing but what's honest. I don't mean to ask for any good round sum; for the plum-tree has done me no great harm by coming into my garden,

but only I don't choose it should come there without my leave.'

'Well, well,' said the attorney; 'I understand all that; but what I want to make you, Mr. Oakly, understand, is, that this Grant and his son, only want to make up matters with you, and prevent the thing's coming to a fair trial, by sending you, in this underhand sort of way, a bribe of a few raspberries.'

'A bribe!' exclaimed Oakly, 'I never took a bribe, and I never will;' and, with sudden indignation, he pulled the raspberry-plants from the ground in which Arthur was planting them; and he threw them over the wall into Grant's garden.

Maurice had put his tulip which was beginning to blow, in a flower pot, on the top of the wall, in hopes that his friend Arthur would see it from day to day.

Alas! he knew not in what a dangerous situation he had placed it. One of his own Brobdignag raspberry-plants, swung by the angry arm of Oakly, struck off the head of his precious tulip.

Arthur, who was full of the thought of convincing his father that the attorney was mistaken in his judgment of poor Maurice, did not observe the fall of the tulip.

The next day, when Maurice saw his raspberry-plants scattered upon the ground, and his favourite tulip broken, he was in much astonishment, and, for some moments, angry; but anger, with him, never lasted long. He was convinced, that all this must be owing to some accident or mistake; he could not believe that any one could be so malicious, as to injure him on purpose—'And even if they did all this on purpose to vex me,' said he to himself, 'the best thing I can do, is not to let it vex me. Forgive and forget.'

This temper of mind Maurice was more happy in enjoying, than he could have been made without it, by the possession of all the tulips in Holland.

Tulips were, at this time, things of great consequence in the estimation of the country, several miles round, where Maurice and Arthur lived.

There was a florist's feast to be held at the neighbouring town, at which a prize of a handsome set of gardening-tools was to be given to the person who could produce the finest flower of its kind. A tulip was the flower which was thought the finest the preceding year, and consequently, numbers of people afterwards endeavoured to procure

tulip-roots, in hopes of obtaining the prize this year.

Arthur's tulip was beautiful. As he examined it from day to day, and every day thought it improving, he longed to thank his friend Maurice for it; and he often mounted into his crab-tree, to look into Maurice's garden, in hopes of seeing his tulip also in full bloom and beauty. He never could see it.

The day of the florist's feast arrived, and Oakly went with his son, and the fine tulip, to the place of meeting. It was on a spacious bowling-green. All the flowers, of various sorts, were ranged upon a terrace at the upper end of the bowling-green; and, amongst all this gay variety, the tulip which Maurice had given to Arthur appeared conspicuously beautiful. To the owner of this tulip the prize was adjudged; and, as the handsome garden-tools were delivered to Arthur, he heard a well-known voice wish him joy. He turned, looked about him, and saw his friend Maurice.

'But, Maurice, where is your own tulip?' said Mr. Oakly, 'I thought Arthur, you told me that he kept one for himself.'

'So I did,' said Maurice; 'but somebody (I suppose by accident) broke it.'

'Somebody! who?' cried Arthur and Mr. Oakly at once.

'Somebody who threw the raspberry-plants back again over the wall,' replied Maurice.

'That was me—that somebody was me,' said Oakly. 'I scorn to deny it; but I did not intend to break your tulip, Maurice.'

'Dear Maurice,' said Arthur; 'you know I may call him dear Maurice—now you are by papa—here are all the garden-tools; take them, and welcome.'

'Not one of them,' said Maurice, drawing back.

'Offer them to the father—offer them to Mr. Grant,' whispered Oakly; 'he'll take them, I'll answer for it.'

Mr. Oakly was mistaken: the father would not accept of the tools.

Mr. Oakly stood surprised. 'Certainly,' said he to himself, 'this cannot be such a miser as I took him for;' and he walked immediately up to Grant, and bluntly said to him, 'Mr. Grant, your son has behaved very handsome to my son; and you seem to be glad of it.'

'To be sure I am,' said Grant.

'Which,' continued Oakly, 'gives me a better opinion of you than ever I had before

—I mean, than ever I had since the day you sent me the shabby answer about those foolish, what d'ye call 'em, cursed raspberries.'

'What shabby answer?' said Grant, with surprise; and Oakly repeated exactly the message which he received; and Grant declared that he never sent any such message. He repeated exactly the answer which he really sent, and Oakly immediately stretched out his hand to him, saying, 'I believe you: no more need be said: I'm only sorry I did not ask you about this four months ago; and so I should have done, if you had not been a Scotchman. Till now, I never rightly liked a Scotchman. We may thank this good little fellow,' continued he, turning to Maurice, 'for our coming at last to a right understanding: there was no holding out against his good-nature. I'm sure from the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry I broke his tulip. Shake hands, boys; I'm glad to see you, Arthur, look so happy again, and hope Mr. Grant will forgive——'

'O, forgive and forget,' said Grant and his son at the same moment; and from this time forward, the two families lived in friendship with each other.

Oakly laughed at his own folly, in having been persuaded to go to law about the plum-

tree; and he, in process of time, so completely conquered his early prejudice against Scotchmen, that he and Grant became partners in business. Mr. Grant's book-*larning*, and knowledge of arithmetic, he found highly useful to him; and he, on his side, possessed a great many active, good qualities, which became serviceable to his partner.

The two boys rejoiced in this family union; and Arthur often declared, that they owed all their happiness to Maurice's favourite maxim, 'Forgive and forget.'

THE

BARRING OUT;

OR,

PARTY SPIRIT.

THE mother of mischief,' says an old proverb, 'is no bigger than a midge's wing.' At Doctor Middleton's school, there was a great tall dunce of the name of Fisher, who never could be taught how to look out a word in a dictionary. He used to torment every body with—'Do pray help me! I can't make out this one word.' The person who usually helped him in his distress was a very clever, good-natured boy, of the name of De Grey. De Grey had been under Dr. Middleton's care, for abilities and good conduct did credit. The doctor certainly loved and fond of him; but he was beloved, or so much esteemed, by companions, that nobody

had ever called him by the odious name of favourite, until the arrival of a new scholar of the name of Archer.

Till Archer came, the ideas of *favourites* and *parties* were almost unknown at Doctor Middleton's; but he brought all these ideas fresh from a great, publick school, at which he had been educated—at which he had acquired a sufficient quantity of Greek and Latin, and a superabundant quantity of party-spirit. His aim, the moment that he came to a new school, was to get to the head of it, or at least to form the strongest party. His influence, for he was a boy of considerable abilities, was quickly felt, though he had a powerful rival, as he thought proper to call him, in De Grey, and, with *him*, a rival was always an enemy. De Grey, so far from giving him any cause of hatred, treated him with a degree of cordiality, which would probably have had an effect upon Archer's mind, if it had not been for the artifices of Fisher.

It may seem surprising that a *great dunce* should be able to work upon a boy like Archer, who was called a great genius; but when genius is joined to a violent temper, instead of being united to good sense, it is at the mercy even of dunces.

Fisher was mortally offended one morning, by De Grey's refusing to translate his whole lesson for him. He went over to Archer, who, considering him as a partisan deserting from the enemy, received him with open arms, and translated his whole lesson, without expressing much contempt for his stupidity. From this moment Fisher forgot all De Grey's former kindness, and considered only how he could in his turn mortify the person, whom he felt to be so much his superior.

De Grey and Archer were now reading for a premium, which was to be given in their class. Fisher betted on Archer's head, who had not sense enough to despise the bet of a blockhead. On the contrary, he suffered him to excite the spirit of rivalship in its utmost fury, by collecting the bets of all the school. So that this premium now became a matter of the greatest consequence, and Archer, instead of taking the means to secure a judgment in his favour, was listening to the opinions of all his companions. It was a prize which was to be won by his own exertions, but he suffered himself to consider it as an affair of chance. The consequence was, that he trusted to chance—his

partisans lost their wagers, and he the premium—and his temper.

'Mr. Archer,' said Dr. Middleton, after the grand affair was decided, 'you have done all that genius alone could do; but you, De Grey, have done all that genius, and industry united, could do.'

'Well!' cried Archer, with affected gayety, as soon as the Doctor had left the room—'Well, I'm content with *my* sentence—genius alone for me! industry for those who *want* it,' added he, with a significant look at De Grey.

Fisher applauded this as a very spirited speech; and, by insinuations, that Dr. Middleton, 'always gave the premium to De Grey,' and that 'those who had lost their bets might thank themselves for it, for being such simpletons as to bet against the favourite,' he raised a murmur, highly flattering to Archer, amongst some of the most credulous boys; whilst others loudly proclaimed their belief in Dr. Middleton's impartiality. These warmly congratulated De Grey. At this Archer grew more and more angry; and when Fisher was proceeding to speak nonsense *for* him, pushed forward into the the circle to De Grey, crying—'I wish,

Mr. Fisher, you would let me fight my own battles!'

'And *I* wish,' said young Townsend, who was fonder of diversions than of premiums, or battles, or of any thing else—'*I* wish that we were not to have any battles; after having worked like horses, don't set about to fight like dogs. Come,' said he, tapping De Grey's shoulder, 'let us see your new play-house, do. It's a holiday, and let us make the most of it—let us have the School for Scandal, do, and I'll play Charles for you, and you, De Grey, shall be *my little Premium.* Come, do open this new play-house of yours to-night.'

'Come then!' said De Grey, and he ran across the play-ground to a waste building, at the farthest end of it, in which, at the earnest request of the whole community, and with the permission of Dr. Middleton, he had with much pains and ingenuity erected a theatre.

'The new theatre is going to be opened! Follow the manager! Follow the manager!' echoed a multitude of voices.

'*Follow the manager!*' echoed very disagreeably in Archer's ear; but as he could not be *left alone*, he was also obliged to follow the manager. The moment that the

door was unlocked, the crowd rushed in; the delight and wonder expressed at the sight was great, and the applauses and thanks which were bestowed upon the manager, were long and loud.

Archer at least thought them long, for he was impatient till his voice could be heard. When at length the exclamations had spent themselves, he walked across the stage with a knowing air, and looking round contemptuously—

'And is *this* your famous play-house?' cried he. 'I wish you had any of you seen the play-house *I* have been used to!'

These words made a great and visible change in the feelings and opinions of the publick. 'Who would be a servant of the publick? or who would toil for popular applause?' A few words spoken in a decisive tone by a new voice, operated as a charm, and the play-house was in an instant metamorphosed in the eyes of the spectators. All gratitude for the past was forgotten, and the expectation of something better, justified to the capricious multitude their disdain of what they had so lately pronounced to be excellent.

Every one now began to criticise. One observed, 'that the green curtain was full of

holes, and would not draw up.' Another attacked the scenes—'Scenes! they were not like real scenes. Archer must know best, because he was used to these things.' So every body crowded to hear something of the *other* play-house. They gathered round Archer to hear the description of his play-house, and at every sentence, insulting comparisons were made. When he had done, his auditors looked round—sighed—and wished that Archer had been their manager. They turned from De Grey, as from a person who had done them an injury. Some of his friends—for he had friends, who were not swayed by the popular opinion—felt indignation at this ingratitude, and were going to express their feelings, but De Grey stopped them, and begged that he might speak for himself.

'Gentlemen,' said he, coming forward, as soon as he felt that he had sufficient command of himself—

'My friends, I see you are discontented with me and my play-house. I have done my best to please you; but if any body else can please you better, I shall be glad of it. I did not work so hard for the glory of being your manager. You have my free leave to tear down'—here his voice faultered, but

he hurried on—'You have my free leave to tear down all my work as fast as you please. Archer, shake hands first, however, to shew that there's no malice in the case.'

Archer, who was touched by what his rival said, and stopping the hand of his new partisan Fisher, cried, 'No, Fisher! no! no pulling down. We can alter it. There is a great deal of ingenuity in it, considering.'

In vain Archer would now have recalled the publick to reason. The time for reason was past; enthusiasm had taken hold of their minds. 'Down with it! down with it!' Archer for ever!' cried Fisher, and tore down the curtain. The riot once begun, nothing could stop the little mob, till the whole theatre was demolished. The love of power prevailed in the mind of Archer; he was secretly flattered by the zeal of his *party*, and he mistook their love of mischief for attachment to himself. De Grey looked on superior. 'I said I could bear to see all this, and I can,' said he—'now it is all over.' And now it was all over, there was silence. The rioters stood still to take breath, and to look at what they had done. There was a blank space before them.

In this moment of silence there was heard something like a female voice. 'Hush!

What strange voice is that?' said Archer. Fisher caught fast hold of his arm—every body looked round to see where the voice came from. It was dusk—two window shutters at the farthest end of the building were seen to move slowly inwards. De Grey, and in the same instant Archer, went forward; and as the shutters opened, there appeared through the hole the dark face and shrivelled hands of a very old gipsy. She did not speak; but she looked first at one, and then at another. At length she fixed her eyes upon De Grey—'Well, my good woman, what do you want with me?'

'Want!—nothing—with *you*,' said the old woman; 'do you want nothing with *me?*'

'Nothing,' said De Grey. Her eye immediately turned upon Archer—'*You* want something with me,' said she with emphasis. 'I! What do I want?' replied Archer. 'No,' said she, changing her tone, 'you want nothing—nothing will you ever want, or I am much mistaken in that *face*.'

In that *watch-chain*, she should have said, for her quick eye had espied Arthur's watch-chain. He was the only person in company who had a watch, and she therefore judged him to be the richest.

'Had you ever your fortune told, sir, in your life?'

'Not I!' said he, looking at De Grey, as if he was afraid of his ridicule, if he listened to the gipsy.

'Not you! no! for you will make your own fortune, and the fortune of all that belong to you!'

'There's good news for my friends!' cried Archer. 'And I'm one of them, remember that,' cried Fisher. 'And I'—'And I'—joined a number of voices.

'Good luck to them! cried the gipsy, 'good luck to them all!'

Then as soon as they had acquired sufficient confidence in her good-will, they pressed up to the window. 'There,' cried Townsend, as he chanced to stumble over the carpenter's mitre-box, which stood in the way—'There's a good omen for me. I've stumbled on the mitre-box; I shall certainly be a bishop.'

Happy he who had six-pence, for he bid fair to be a judge upon the bench. And happier he who had a shilling, for he was in the high road to be one day upon the woolsack, Lord High Chancellor of England. No one had half a crown, or no one would surely have kept it in his pocket upon such an

occasion; for he might have been an archbishop, a king, or what he pleased.

Fisher, who like all weak people was extremely credulous, had kept his post immoveable in the front row all the time, his mouth open, and his stupid eyes fixed upon the gipsy, in whom he felt implicit faith.

Those who have least confidence in their own powers, and who have least expectation from the success of their own exertions, are always most disposed to trust in fortune-tellers and fortune. They hope to *win*, when they cannot *earn;* and as they can never be convinced by those who speak sense, it is no wonder they are always persuaded by those who talk nonsense.

'I have a question to put,' said Fisher in a solemn tone.

'Put it then,' said Archer, 'what hinders you?'

'But they will hear me,' said he, looking suspiciously at De Grey.

'*I* shall not hear you,' said De Grey, 'I am going.' Every body else drew back, and left him to whisper his question in the gipsy's ear.

'What is become of my Livy?'

'Your *sister* Livy, do you mean?' said the gipsy.

'No; my *Latin* Livy.'

The gipsy paused for further information.

'It had a leaf torn out in the beginning, and *I hate Dr. Middleton*—'

'Written in it,' interrupted the gipsy.

'Right—the very book!' cried Fisher with joy. 'But how *could* you know it was Dr. Middleton's name? I thought I had scratched it so, that nobody could make it out.'

'Nobody *could* make it out but *me*,' replied the gipsy. 'But never think to deceive me,' said she, shaking her head at him in a manner that made him tremble.

'I don't deceive you indeed. I tell you the whole truth. I lost it a week ago.'

'True.'

'And when shall I find it?'

'Meet me here at this hour to-morrow evening, and I will answer you. No more! —I must be gone. Not a word more to-night.'

She pulled the shutters towards her, and left the youth in darkness. All his companions were gone. He had been so deeply engaged in this conference, that he had not perceived their departure. He found all the world at supper, but no entreaties could prevail upon him to disclose his secret.

Townsend rallied in vain. As for Archer, he was not disposed to destroy by ridicule the effect, which he saw that the old woman's predictions in his favour had had upon the imagination of many of his little partisans. He had privately slipped two shillings into the gipsy's hand to secure her; for he was willing to pay any price for *any* means of acquiring power.

The watch-chain had not deceived the gipsy, for Archer was the richest person in the community. His friends had imprudently supplied him with more money than is usually trusted to boys of his age. Doctor Middleton had refused to give him a larger monthly allowance than the rest of his companions; but he brought to school with him, secretly, the sum of five guineas. This appeared to his friends and to himself an inexhaustible treasure.

Riches and talents would, he flattered himself, secure to him that ascendancy, of which he was so ambitious. 'Am I your manager, or not?' was now his question. 'I scorn to take advantage of a hasty moment, but since last night you have had time to consider. If you desire me to be your manager, you shall see what a theatre I will make for you. In this purse,' said he,

shewing through the net-work a glimpse of the shining treasure—'in this purse is Aladdin's wonderful lamp. Am I your manager? Put it to the vote.'

It was put to the vote. About ten of the most reasonable of the assembly declared their gratitude, and high approbation of their old friend De Grey; but the numbers were in favour of the new friend. And as no metaphysical distinctions relative to the idea of a majority had ever entered their thoughts, the most numerous party considered themselves as now beyond dispute in the right. They drew off on one side in triumph, and their leader, who knew the consequence of a name in party matters, immediately distinguished his partisans by the gallant name of *Archers*, stigmatising the friends of De Grey by the odious epithet of Greybeards.

Amongst the Archers was a class, not very remarkable for their mental qualifications; but who by their bodily activity, and by the peculiar advantages annexed to their way of life, rendered themselves of the highest consequence, especially to the rich and enterprising. The judicious reader will apprehend, that I allude to the persons called day-scholars. Amongst these, Fisher was distinguished by his knowledge of all the streets

and shops in the adjacent town ; and, though a dull scholar, he had such reputation as a man of business, that whoever had commissions to execute at the confectioner's were sure to apply to him. Some of the youngest of his employers had, it is true, at times complained, that he made mistakes of half-pence and pence in their accounts ; but as these affairs could never be brought to a publick trial, Fisher's character and consequence were undiminished, till the fatal day when his aunt Barbara forbad his visits to the confectioner—or rather, till she requested the confectioner, who had his private reasons for obeying her, not *to receive* her nephew's visits, as he had made himself sick at his house, and Mrs. Barbara's fears for his health were incessant.

Though his visits to the confectioner's were thus at an end, there were many other shops open to him ; and, with officious zeal, he offered his services to the new manager, to purchase whatever might be wanting for the theatre.

Since his father's death, Fisher had become a boarder at Dr. Middleton's ; but his frequent visits to his aunt Barbara afforded him opportunities of going into the town. The carpenter, De Grey's friend was

discarded by Archer, for having said '*lack-a-daisy!*' when he saw that the old theatre was pulled down. A new carpenter and paper hanger, recommended by Fisher, were appointed to attend, with their tools, for orders, at two o'clock. Archer, impatient to shew his ingenuity and his generosity, gave his plan and his orders in a few minutes, in a most decided manner. 'These things' he observed, 'should be done with some spirit.' To which the carpenter readily assented, and added, that 'gentlemen of spirit never looked to the *expense*, but always to the *effect*.' Upon this principle, Mr. Chip set to work with all possible alacrity. In a few hours time he promised to produce a grand effect. High expectations were formed: nothing was talked of but the new play-house; and so intent upon it was every head, that no lessons could be got. Archer was obliged, in the midst of his various occupations, to perform the part of grammar and dictionary for twenty different people.

'Oh, ye Athenians!' he exclaimed, 'how hard do I work to obtain your praise!'

Impatient to return to the theatre, the moment the hours destined for instruction, or as they are termed by school-boys, school-

hours, were over, each prisoner started up with a shout of joy.

'Stop one moment, gentlemen, if you please,' said Dr. Middleton, in an awful voice. 'Mr. Archer, return to your place. Are you all here?' The names of all the boys were called over, and when each had answered to his name, Dr. Middleton said, 'Gentlemen, I am sorry to interrupt your amusements; but, till you have contrary orders from me, no one, on pain of my serious displeasure, must go into *that* building,'—(pointing to the place where the theatre was erecting.) 'Mr. Archer, your carpenter is at the door, you will be so good as to dismiss him. I do not think proper to give my reasons for these orders; but you who *know* me,' said the doctor, and his eye turned towards De Grey, 'will not suspect me of caprice—I depend, gentlemen, upon your obedience.

To the dead silence, with which these orders were received, succeeded, in a few minutes, an universal groan. 'So!' said Townsend, 'all our diversion is over.' 'So,' whispered Fisher in the manager's ear, 'this is some trick of the Greybeards; did you not observe how he looked at De Grey? Fired by this idea, which had never entered his

mind before, Archer started from his reverie, and striking his hand upon the table, swore that he would not be outwitted by any Greybeard in Europe. 'No, not by all of them put together. The Archers were surely a match for them—he would stand by them, if they would stand by him,' he declared with a loud voice, 'against the whole world, and Dr. Middleton himself, with *little Premium* at his right hand.'

Every body admired Archer's spirit, but were a little appalled at the sound of standing against Dr. Middleton.

'Why not?' resumed the indignant manager. 'Neither Dr. Middleton nor any doctor upon earth shall treat me with injustice. This, you see, is a stroke at me and my party, and I won't bear it.'

'O, you are mistaken!' said De Grey, who was the only one who dared to oppose reason to the angry orator: 'It cannot be a stroke aimed at you and your party, for he does not know that you *have* a party.'

'I'll make him know it, and I'll make *you* know it too,' said Archer; 'before I came here, you reigned alone; now your reign is over, Mr. De Grey. Remember my majority this morning, and your theatre last night.'

'He has remembered it,' said Fisher; 'you see, the moment he was not to be our manager, we were to have no theatre—no play-house—no plays. We must all sit down with our hands before us; all for '*good reasons*' of Dr. Middleton's, which he does not vouchsafe to tell us.'

'I won't be governed by any man's reasons, that he won't tell me,' cried Archer; 'he cannot have good reasons, or why not tell them?'

'Nonsense! *we shall not suspect him of caprice*!'

'Why not?'

'Because we, who know him,' said De Grey, 'have never known him capricious.'

'Perhaps not, *I* know nothing about him' said Archer.

'No,' said De Grey; 'for that very reason I speak, who do know him. Don't be in a passion, Archer.'

'I will be in a passion—I won't submit to tyranny—I won't be made a fool of by a few soft words. You don't know me De Grey. I'll go through with what I've begun. I am manager, and I will be manager; and you shall see my theatre finished in spite of you, and *my* party triumphant.'

'Party!' repeated De Grey; 'I cannot imagine what is in the word 'party,' that seems to drive you mad. We never heard of parties till you came amongst us.'

'No; before I came, I say, nobody dared oppose you, but *I* dare; and I tell you to your face—take care of me. A warm friend and a bitter enemy, is my motto.'

'I am not your enemy! I believe you are out of your senses, Archer!' said he laughing.

'Out of my senses! No—you are my enemy! Are not you my rival? Did not you win the premium? Did not you want to be manager? Answer me—are not you, in one word, a Greybeard?'

'You called me a Greybeard, but my name is De Grey,' said he, still laughing.

'Laugh on!' cried the other, furiously. 'Come, *Archers*, follow me! We shall laugh by and by, I promise you.'

At the door Archer was stopped by Mr. Chip. 'O, Mr. Chip, I am ordered to discharge you.'

'Yes, sir, and here is a little bill——'

'Bill, Mr. Chip! why you have not been at work for two hours!'

'Not much over, sir, but if you'll please to look into it, you'll see it's for a few things

you ordered. The stuff is all laid out and delivered. The paper, and the festoon bordering for the drawing-room scene is cut out, and left *yander*, within.'

'*Yander* within!' I wish you had not been in such a confounded hurry: six-and-twenty shillings!' cried he; 'but I can't stop to talk about it now. I'll tell you, Mr. Chip,' said Archer, lowering his voice, 'what you must do for me, my good fellow.' Then drawing Mr. Chip aside, he begged him to pull down some of the wood-work which had been put up, and to cut it into a certain number of wooden bars, of which he gave him the dimensions, with orders to place them all, when ready, under a haystack, which he pointed out. Mr. Chip scrupled and hesitated, and began to talk of '*the doctor*.' Archer immediately began to talk of the bill, and throwing down a guinea and a half, the conscientious carpenter pocketed the money directly, and made his bow.

'Well, Master Archer,' said he, 'there's no refusing you nothing. You have such a way of talking one out of it—you manage me just like a child.'

'Aye, aye!' said Archer, knowing that he had been cheated, and yet proud of managing a carpenter—'Aye, aye, I know the way

to manage every body. Let the things be ready in an hour's time; and hark'e! leave your tools by mistake behind you, and a thousand of twenty-penny nails. Ask no questions, and keep your own counsel, like a wise man. Off with you, and take care of '*the doctor*.'

'Archers! Archers! To the Archer's tree follow your leader,' cried he, sounding his well known whistle as a signal. His followers gathered round him, and he, raising himself upon the mount at the foot of the tree, counted his numbers, and then, in a voice lower than usual, addressed them thus:

'My friends, is there a Greybeard among us? If there is, let him walk off now; he has my free leave.'

No one stirred.

'Then we are all Archers, and we will stand by one another. Join hands my friends.'

They all joined hands.

'Promise me not to betray me, and I will go on. I ask no security but your honour.'

They all gave their honour to be secret and *faithful*, as he called it, and he went on.

'Did you ever hear of such a thing as *a Barring out*, my friends?'

They had heard of such a thing, but they had only heard of it.

Archer gave the history of a Barring out in which he had been concerned at his school; in which the boys stood out two days against the master, and gained their point at last, which was a week's more holidays at Easter.

'But if *we* should not succeed,' said they; 'Dr. Middleton is so steady, he never goes back from what he has said.'

'Did you ever try to push him back?—Let us be steady, and he'll tremble: tyrants always tremble when——'

'O!' interrupted a number of voices, 'but he is not a tyrant, is he?'

'All schoolmasters are tyrants, are not they?' replied Archer, 'and is not he a schoolmaster?'

To this logic there was no answer; but still reluctant, they asked 'what they should *get* by a Barring out?'

'Get! Every thing! What we want—which is every thing to lads of spirit—victory and liberty! Bar him out till he repeals his tyrannical law: till he lets us into our own theatre again, or till he tells us his '*good reasons*' against it.'

'But perhaps he has reasons for not telling us.'

'Impossible!' cried Archer, 'that's the way we are always to be governed by a man in a wig, who says he has good reasons, and can't tell them. Are you fools?' Go—go back to De Grey. I see you are all Grey-beards. Go! Who goes first?'

Nobody would go *first*.

'I will have nothing to do with ye, if ye are resolved to be slaves.'

'We won't be slaves!' they all exclaimed at once.

'Then,' said Archer, 'stand out in the right and be free.'

'*The right!*' It would have taken up too much time to examine what 'the right' was. Archer was always sure, that '*the right*' was what his party chose to do: that is, what he chose to do himself: and such is the influence of numbers upon each other in conquering the feelings of shame, and in confusing the powers of reasoning, that in a few minutes 'the right' was forgotten, and each said to himself, 'To be sure, Archer is a very clever boy, and he can't be mistaken;'—or, 'To be sure Townsend thinks so, and he would not do any thing to get us into a scrape;'—or, 'To be sure, every body will agree to this but myself, and I can't stand out alone, to be pointed at as a Grey-

beard and a slave. Every body thinks it is right, and every body can't be wrong.'

By some of these arguments, which passed rapidly through the mind, without his being conscious of them, each boy decided, and deceived himself: what none would have done alone, none scrupled to do as a party.

It was determined then, that there should be a Barring out. The arrangement of the affair was left to their new manager, to whom they all pledged implicit obedience.

Obedience, it seems, is necessary, even from rebels to their ringleaders: not reasonable, but implicit obedience.

Scarcely had the assembly adjourned to the Ball-alley, when Fisher, with an important length of face, came up to the manager, and desired to speak one word to him.

'My advice to you, Archer, is, to do nothing in this till we have consulted *you know who* about whether it's right or wrong.'

'*You know who!*' Who do you mean?' Make haste, and don't make so many faces, for I'm in a hurry. Who is '*you know who?*'

'The old woman,' said Fisher, gravely; 'the gipsy.'

'You may consult the old woman,' said Archer, bursting out a laughing, 'about

what's right and wrong, if you please; but no old woman shall decide for me.'

'No; but you don't *take* me,' said Fisher. 'You don't *take* me. By right and wrong, I mean lucky and unlucky.'

'Whatever *I* do will be lucky,' replied Archer. My gipsy told you that already.'

'I know, I know,' said Fisher, 'and what she said about your friends being lucky—that went a great way with many,' added he, with a sagacious nod of his head, 'I can tell you *that*—more than you think. Do you know,' said he, laying hold of Archer's button, 'I'm in the secret! There are nine of us have crooked our little fingers upon it not to stir a step till we get her advice; and she has appointed me to meet her about particular business of my own at eight. So I'm to consult her, and to bring her answer.'

Archer knew too well how to govern fools, to attempt to reason with them; and instead of laughing any longer at Fisher's ridiculous superstition, he was determined to take advantage of it. He affected to be persuaded of the wisdom of the measure, looked at his watch, urged him to be exact to a moment, conjured him to remember exactly the words of the oracle, and, above all

things, to demand the lucky hour and minute when the Barring out should begin.

With these instructions, Archer put his watch into the solemn dupe's hand, and left him to count the seconds till the moment of his appointment, whilst he ran off himself to prepare the oracle. At a little gate, which looked into a lane, through which he guessed that the gipsy must pass, he stationed himself, saw her, gave her half a crown and her instructions, made his escape, and got back unsuspected to Fisher, whom he found in the attitude in which he had left him, watching the motion of the minute hand.

Proud of his secret commission, Fisher slouched his hat, he knew not why, over his face, and proceeded towards the appointed spot. To keep, as he had been charged to do by Archer, within the letter of the law, he stood *behind* the forbidden building, and waited some minutes. Through a gap in the hedge the old woman at length made her appearance, muffled up, and looking cautiously about her.

'There's nobody near us,' said Fisher, and he began to be a little afraid: 'what answer,' said he, recollecting himself, 'about my Livy?'

'Lost! lost! lost!' said the gipsy, lifting up her hands, 'never, never, never to be found! But no matter for that now, that is not your errand to night: no tricks with me—speak to me of what is next your heart.'

Fisher, astonished, put his hand upon his heart, told her all that she knew before, and received the answers which Archer had dictated—'that the Archers should be lucky as long as they stuck to their manager and to one another; that the Barring out should end in woe, if not begun precisely as the clock should strike nine, on Wednesday night; but if begun in that *lucky* moment, and all obedient to their *lucky* leader, all should end well.'

A thought, a provident thought, now struck Fisher; for even he had some foresight, where his favourite passion was concerned: 'Pray, in our Barring out, shall we be starved?'

'No,' said the gipsy, 'not if you trust to me for food, and if you give me money enough: silver won't do for so many, gold is what must cross my hand.'

'I have no gold,' said Fisher, 'and I don't know what you mean by so many; I'm only talking of number one, you know, I must take care of that first.'

So, as Fisher thought that it was possible that Archer, clever as he was, might be disappointed in his supplies, he determined to take secret measures for himself. His aunt Barbara's interdiction had shut him out of the confectioner's shop, but he flattered himself that he could outwit his aunt; he therefore begged the gipsy to procure him twelve buns by Thursday morning, and bring them secretly to one of the windows of the schoolroom.

As Fisher did not produce any money when he made this proposal, it was at first absolutely rejected; but a bribe at length conquered all difficulties; and the bribe which Fisher found himself obliged to give —for he had no pocket money left of his own, he being as much *restricted* in that article as Archer was *indulged*—the bribe that he found himself obliged to give to quiet the gipsy, was half a crown, which Archer had entrusted to him to buy candles for the theatre. 'O,' thought he to himself, 'Archer's so careless about money, he will never think of asking me for the half crown again; and now he'll want no candles for the *theatre*; or at any rate it will be some time first, and may be aunt Barbara may be got to give me that much at Christmas: then, if the worst

comes to the worst, I can pay Archer. My mouth waters for the buns, and have 'em I must now.'

So, for the hope of twelve buns, he sacrificed the money which had been entrusted to him. The meanest motives, in mean minds, often prompt to the commission of those great faults, to which, one should think, nothing but some violent passion could have tempted.

The ambassador having thus, in his opinion, concluded his own and the publick business, returned well satisfied with the result, after receiving the gipsy's reiterated promise, to tap *three times* at the window on Thursday morning.

The day appointed for the Barring out at length arrived, and Archer, assembling the confederates, informed them, that all was prepared for carrying their design into execution; that he now depended for success upon their punctuality and courage. He had within the last two hours, got all the bars ready to fasten the doors and window shutters of the school-room; he had, with the assistance of two of the day scholars, who were of the party, sent into the town for provision, at his own expense, which would make a handsome supper for that night; he

had also negotiated with some cousins of his, who lived in the town, for a constant supply in future.

'Bless me,' exclaimed Archer, suddenly stopping in this narration of his services, 'there's one thing, after all, I've forgot; we shall be undone without it. Fisher, pray did you ever buy the candles for the play-house?'

'No, to be sure,' replied Fisher, extremely frightened, 'you know you don't want candles for the play-house now.'

'Not for the play-house, but for the Barring out: we shall be in the dark man: you must run this minute—run.'

'For candles?' said Fisher, confused, 'how many? what sort?'

'Stupidity!' exclaimed Archer, 'you are a pretty fellow at a dead lift! Lend me a pencil and a bit of paper, do; I'll write down what I want myself. Well, what are you fumbling for?'

'For money,' said Fisher, colouring.

'Money, man! Didn't I give you half a crown the other day?'

'Yes,' replied Fisher, stammering; but I wasn't sure that that might be enough.'

'Enough! yes, to be sure it will; I don't know what you are *at*.

'Nothing, nothing,' said Fisher, 'here, write upon this then,' putting a piece of paper into Archer's hand, upon which Archer wrote his orders. 'Away, away!' cried he.

And away went Fisher. He returned, but not until a considerable time afterwards.

They were at supper when he returned. 'Fisher always comes in at supper time,' observed one of the Greybeards, carelessly.

'Well, and would you have him come in *after* supper-time?' said Townsend, who always supplied his party with ready *wit*.

'I've got the candles,' whispered Fisher, as he passed by Archer to his place.

'And the tinder-box?' said Archer.

'Yes; I got back from my aunt Barbara under pretence that I must study for repetition day an hour later to-night; so I got leave. Was not that clever?'

A dunce always thinks it clever to cheat, even by *sober lies*.

How Mr. Fisher procured the candles and the tinder-box without money, and without credit, for he had no credit, we shall discover in future.

Archer and his associates had agreed to stay the last in the school-room, and as soon as the Greybeards were gone out to bed, he, as the signal, was to shut and lock one door,

Townsend the other, a third conspirator was to strike a light, in case they should not be able to secure a candle, a fourth was to take charge of the candle as soon as lighted, and all the rest were to run to their bars, which were secreted in the room, then to fix them to the common fastening bars of the window, in the manner in which they had been previously instructed by the manager. Thus, each had his part assigned, and each was warned that the success of the whole depended upon their order and punctuality.

Order and punctuality, it appears, are necessary even in a Barring out, and even rebellion must have its laws.

The long expected moment at length arrived. De Grey and his friends, unconscious of what was going forward, walked out of the school-room as usual at bed time. The clock began to strike nine. There was one Greybeard left in the room, who was packing up some of his books, which had been left about by accident. It is impossible to describe the impatience with which he was watched, especially by Fisher, and the nine who depended upon the gipsy oracle.

When he had got all his books together under his arm, he let one of them fall; and whilst he stooped to pick it up, Archer gave

the signal. The doors were shut, locked, and double locked in an instant. A light was struck, and each ran to his post. The bars were all in the same moment put up to the windows, and Archer, when he had tried them all, and seen that they were secure, gave a loud 'huzza!' in which he was joined by all the party most manfully—by all but the poor Greybeard, who, the picture of astonishment, stood stock still in the midst of them with his books under his arm; at which spectacle, Townsend, who enjoyed the *frolic* of the fray more than any thing else, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter.

'So, my little Greybeard,' said he, holding a candle full in his eyes, 'what think you of all this? How came you amongst the wicked ones?'

'I don't know indeed,' said the little boy very gravely, 'you shut me up amongst you, won't you let me out?'

'Let you out! No, no, my little Greybeard,' said Archer, catching hold of him, and dragging him to the window bars, 'look ye here—touch these—put your hand to them—pull, push, kick—put a little spirit into it man—kick like an Archer, if ye can—away with ye. It's a pity that the king of the Greybeards is not here to admire me; I

should like to shew him our fortifications. But come my merry-men all, now to the feast. Out with the table into the middle of the room. Good cheer, my jolly Archers! I'm your manager!'

Townsend, delighted with the bustle, rubbed his hands, and capered about the room, whilst the preparations for the feast were hurried forward.

'Four candles! four candles on the table. Let's have things in style when we are about it, Mr. Manager,' cried Townsend. 'Places! Places! There's nothing like a fair scramble, my boys; let every one take care of himself. Halloo! Greybeard; I've knocked Greybeard down here in the scuffle. Get up again, my lad, and see a little of life.'

'No, no,' cried Fisher, 'he shan't *sup* with us.'

'No, no,' cried the manager, 'he shan't *live* with us; a Greybeard is not fit company for Archers.'

'No, no,' cried Townsend, 'evil communication corrupts good manners.'

So with one unanimous hiss, they hunted the poor little gentle boy into a corner; and having pent him up with benches, Fisher opened his books for him, which he thought the greatest mortification, and set up a

candle beside him. 'There, now he looks like a Greybeard as he is!' cried they.

'Tell me what's the Latin for cold roast beef:' said Fisher, exulting, and they returned to their feast.

Long and loud they revelled. They had a few bottles of cyder. 'Give me the corkscrew, the cyder shan't be kept till it's sour,' cried Townsend, in answer to the manager, who, when he beheld the provision vanishing with surprising rapidity, began to fear for the morrow.

'Hang to-morrow!' cried Townsend, 'let Greybeards think of to-morrow; Mr. Manager, here's your good health.'

The Archers all stood up as their cups were filled, to drink the health of their chief, with an universal cheer.

But at the moment that the cups were at their lips, and as Archer bowed to thank the company, a sudden shower from above astonished the whole assembly. They looked up, and beheld the rose of a watering engine, the long neck of which appeared through a trap-door in the ceiling.

'Your good health, Mr. Manager;' said a voice, which was known to be the gardener's, and in the midst of their surprise and dismay, the candles were suddenly, extin-

guished, the trap door shut down, and they were left in utter darkness.

'The *devil!*' said Archer—

'Don't swear, Mr. Manager,' said the same voice from the ceiling, 'I hear every word you say.'

'Mercy upon us!' exclaimed Fisher. 'The clock,' added he, whispering, 'must have been wrong, for it had not done striking when we began. Only you remember, Archer; it had just done before you had done locking your door.'

'Hold your tongue blockhead!' said Archer. 'Well, boys! were ye never in the dark before? You are not afraid of a shower of rain, I hope. Is any body drowned?'

'No,' said they with a faint laugh, 'but what shall we do here in the dark all night long, and all day to-morrow? we can't unbar the shutters.'

'It's a wonder *nobody* ever thought of that trap-door,' said Townsend.

The trap-door had indeed escaped the manager's observation, as the house was new to him, and, the ceiling being newly white washed, the opening was scarcely perceptible. Vexed to be out-generalled, and still more vexed to have it remarked, Archer poured forth a volley of incoherent

exclamations and reproaches against those who were thus so soon discouraged by a trifle; and groping for the tinder-box, he asked if any thing could be easier than to strike a light again.

The light appeared. But at the moment that it made the tinder-box visible, another shower from above, aimed, and aimed exactly at the tinder-box, drenched it with water, and rendered it totally unfit for further service.

Archer in a fury dashed it to the ground. And now, for the first time, he felt what it was to be the unsuccessful head of a party. He heard, in his turn, the murmurs of the discontented, changeable populace; and recollecting all his bars, and bolts, and ingenious contrivances, he was more provoked at their blaming him for this one only oversight, than he was grieved at the disaster itself.

'O, my hair is all wet!' cried one, dolefully.

'Wring it then,' said Archer.

'My hand's cut with your broken glass,' cried another.

'Glass!' cried a third, 'mercy! is there broken glass? and it's all about, I suppose,

amongst the supper; and I had but one bit of bread all the time.'

'Bread!' cried Archer; 'Eat, if you want it—here's a piece here, and no glass near it.'

'It's all wet; and I don't like dry bread by itself—that's no feast.'

'Heigh-day! What, nothing but moaning and grumbling! If these are the joys of *a Barring out*,' cried Townsend, 'I'd rather be snug in my bed. I expected that we should have sat up till twelve o'clock, talking, and laughing, and singing.'

'So you may still, what hinders you?' said Archer. 'Sing, and we'll join you, and I should be glad those fellows overhead heard us singing. Begin, Townsend—

'Come now all ye social Powers,
'Spread your influence o'er us—'

or else—

'Rule Britannia! Britannia rule the waves!
'Britons never will be slaves.'

Nothing can be more melancholy than forced merriment. In vain they roared in chorus. In vain they tried to appear gay; it would not do. The voices died away, and dropped off one by one. They had each provided himself with a great coat to

sleep upon, but now in the dark, there was a peevish, scrambling contest for the coats, and half the company, in very bad humour, stretched themselves upon the benches for the night.

There is great pleasure in bearing any thing that has the appearance of hardship, as long as there is any glory to be acquired by it; but when people feel themselves foiled, there is no further pleasure in endurance: and if in their misfortune there is any mixture of the ridiculous, the motives for heroism are immediately destroyed. Dr. Middleton had probably considered this, in the choice he made of his first attack.

Archer, who had spent the night as a man that had the cares of government upon his shoulders, rose early in the morning, whilst every body else was fast asleep. In the night, he had revolved the affair of the trap-door, and a new danger had alarmed him. It was possible that the enemy might descend upon them through the trap-door. The room had been built high, to admit a free circulation of air. It was twenty feet high; so that it was in vain to think of reaching to the trap-door. As soon as day-light appeared, Archer rose softly, that he

might *reconnoitre*, and devise some method of guarding against this new danger. Luckily there were round holes in the top of the window shutters, which admitted sufficient light for him to work by. The remains of the soaked feast, wet candles, and broken glass, spread over the table in the middle of the room, looked rather dismal this morning.

'A pretty set of fellows I have to manage!' said Archer, contemplating the group of sleepers before him. 'It is well they have somebody to think for them. Now if I wanted—which, thank goodness, I don't—but if I did want to call a cabinet-council to my assistance, whom could I pitch upon? Not this stupid snorer, who is dreaming of gipsies, if he is dreaming of any thing,' continued Archer, as he looked into Fisher's open mouth.

'This next chap is quick enough, but then he is so fond of having every thing his own way.'

'And this curl pated monkey who is grinning in his sleep, is all tongue, and no brains.'

'Here are brains, though nobody would think it, in this lump,' said he, looking at a fat, rolled-up, heavy-breathing sleeper; 'but what signify brains to such a lazy dog;

I might kick him for my foot-ball this half hour, before I should get him awake.'

'This lank-jawed harlequin beside him is a handy fellow, to be sure; but then if he has hands, he has no head; and he'd be afraid of his own shadow too, by this light, he is such a coward!'

'And Townsend, why he has puns in plenty; but when there's any work to be done, he's the worst fellow to be near one in the world; he can do nothing but laugh at his own puns.'

'This poor little fellow, that we hunted into the corner, has more sense than all of them put together; but then he is a Greybeard.'

Thus speculated the chief of a party upon his sleeping friends. And how did it happen, that he should be so ambitious to please and govern this set, when, for each individual of which it was composed, he felt such supreme contempt. He had formed them into a *party*, had given them a name, and he was at their head. If these be not good reasons, none better can be assigned for Archer's conduct.

'I wish ye could all sleep on,' said he, 'but I must waken ye, though ye will be only in my way. The sound of my ham-

mering must waken them; so I may as well do the thing handsomely, and flatter some of them by pretending to ask their advice.'

Accordingly, he pulled two or three to waken them. 'Come, Townsend; waken, my boy! Here's some diversion for you; up! up!'

'Diversion!' cried Townsend, 'I'm your man! I'm up—*up to any thing*.'

So, under the name of *diversion*, Archer set Townsend to work at four o'clock in the morning. They had nails, a few tools, and several spars, still left from the wreck of the play-house. These, by Archer's directions, they sharpened at one end, and nailed them to the ends of several forms. All hands were now called to clear away the supper things, and to erect these forms perpendicularly under the trap-door; and, with the assistance of a few braces, a chevaux-de-frise was formed, upon which nobody could venture to descend. At the farthest end of the room, they likewise formed a penthouse of the tables, under which they proposed to breakfast, secure from the pelting storm, if it should again assail them through the trap-door. They crowded under the penthouse as soon as it was ready, and their admiration of its ingenuity paid the workmen for the job.

'Lord! I shall like to see the gardener's phiz through the trap-door, when he beholds the spikes under him!' cried Townsend. 'Now for breakfast!'

'Aye, now for breakfast,' said Archer, looking at his watch; 'past eight o'clock, and my town-boys not come! I don't understand this!'

Archer had expected a constant supply of provision from two boys who lived in the town, who were cousins of his, and who had promised to come every day, and put food in at a certain hole in the wall, in which a ventilator usually turned. This ventilator Archer had taken down, and had contrived it so, that it could be easily removed and replaced at pleasure; but, upon examination, it was now perceived that the hole had been newly stopped up by an iron back, which it was impossible to penetrate or remove.

'It never came into my head, that any body would ever have thought of the ventilator but myself!' exclaimed Archer, in great perplexity. He listened, and waited for his cousins, but no cousins came; and, at a late hour, the company were obliged to breakfast upon the scattered fragments of the last night's feast. That feast had been spread

with such imprudent profusion, that little now remained, to satisfy the hungry guests. Archer, who well knew the effect which the apprehension of a scarcity would have upon his associates, did every thing that could be done by a bold countenance and reiterated assertions, to persuade them that his cousins would certainly come at last, and that the supplies were only delayed. The delay, however, was alarming.

Fisher, alone, heard the manager's calculations, and saw the publick fears unmoved. Secretly rejoicing in his own wisdom, he walked from window to window, slyly listening for the gipsy's signal. 'There it is!' cried he, with more joy sparkling in his eyes than had ever enlightened them before; 'Come this way, Archer; but don't tell any body. Hark! do ye hear those three taps at the window? This is the old woman with twelve buns for me! I'll give you one whole one for yourself, if you will unbar the window for me.'

'Unbar the window!' interrupted Archer; 'no, that I won't, for you or the gipsy either; but I have head enough to get your buns without that. But stay, there is something of more consequence than your twelve buns: I must think for ye all, I see, regularly.'

So he summoned a council, and proposed that every one should subscribe, and trust the subscription to the gipsy, to purchase a fresh supply of provision. Archer laid down a guinea of his own money for his subscription; at which sight all the company clapped their hands, and his popularity rose to a high pitch with their renewed hopes of plenty. Now, having made a list of their wants, they folded the money in the paper, put it into a bag, which Archer tied to a long string, and, having broken the pane of glass behind the round hole in the window shutter, he let down the bag to the gipsy. She promised to be punctual; and having filled the bag with Fisher's twelve buns, they were drawn up with triumph, and every body anticipated the pleasure, with which they should see the same bag drawn up at dinner time. The buns were a little squeezed in being drawn through the hole in the window shutter; but Archer immediately sawed out a piece of the shutter, and broke the corresponding panes in each of the other windows, to prevent suspicion, and to make it appear that they had all been broken to admit the air.

What a pity that so much ingenuity should have been employed to no purpose. It may have surprised the intelligent reader, that the

gipsy was so punctual to her promise to Fisher; but we must recollect, that her apparent integrity was only cunning; she was punctual, that she might be employed again; that she might be entrusted with the contribution, which, she foresaw, must be raised amongst the famishing garrison. No sooner had she received the money than her end was gained.

Dinner-time came. It struck three, four, five, six. They listened with hungry ears, but no signal was heard. The morning had been very long, and Archer had in vain tried to dissuade them from devouring the remainder of the provision before they were sure of a fresh supply. And now, those who had been the most confident, were the most impatient of their disappointment.

Archer, in the division of the food, had attempted, by the most scrupulous exactness, to content the public; and he was both astonished and provoked, to perceive that his impartiality was impeached. So differently do people judge in different situations. He was the first person to accuse his master of injustice, and the least capable of bearing such an imputation upon himself from others. He now experienced some of the joys of power, and the delight of managing unreasonable numbers.

'Have not I done every thing I could to please ye? Have not I spent my money to buy ye food? Have not I divided the last morsel with ye? I have not tasted one mouthful to-day! Did not I set to work for ye at sun-rise? Did not I lie awake all night for ye? Have not I had all the labour, all the anxiety? Look round and see *my* contrivances, *my* work, *my* generosity! And, after all, you think me a tyrant, because I want you to have common sense. Is not this bun which I hold in my hand my own? Did not I earn it by my own ingenuity from that selfish dunce (pointing to Fisher) who could never have gotten one of his twelve buns, if I had not shewn him how: eleven of them he has eaten since morning for his own share, without offering any mortal a morsel; but I scorn to eat even what is justly my own, when I see so many hungry creatures longing for it. I was not going to touch this last morsel myself; I only begged you to keep it till supper time, when, perhaps, you'll want it more, and Townsend, who can't bear the slightest thing that crosses his own whims, and who thinks there's nothing in this world to be minded but his own diversion, calls me a *tyrant*. You all of you promised to obey me; the first thing I ask

you to do for your own good, and when, if you had common sense, you must know I can want nothing but your good, you rebel against me. Traitors! Fools! Ungrateful fools!'

Archer walked up and down, unable to command his emotion, whilst, for the moment, the discontented multitude was silenced.

'Here,' said he, striking his hand upon the little boy's shoulder, 'Here's the only one amongst ye, who has not uttered one word of reproach or complaint, and he has had but one bit of bread—a bit that I gave him myself this day. Here!' said he, snatching the bun, which nobody had dared to touch; 'take it—it's mine. I give it to you, though you are a Greybeard. You deserve it—eat it, and be an Archer. You shall be my captain, will you?' said he, lifting him up in his arms above the rest.

'I like you now,' said the little boy courageously; 'but I love De Grey better; he has always been my friend, and he advised me never to call myself any of those names, Archer or Greybeard, so I won't: though I am shut in here, I have nothing to do with it. I love Dr. Middleton; he was never unjust to *me*, and I dare say that he has very

good reasons, as De Grey said, for forbidding us to go into that house; besides, it's his own.'

Instead of admiring the good sense and steadiness of this lad, Archer suffered Townsend to snatch the untasted bun out of his hands. He flung it at the hole in the window, but it fell back. The Archers scrambled for it, and Fisher ate it.

Archer saw this, and was sensible that he had not done handsomely in suffering it. A few moments ago he had admired his own generosity, and though he had felt the injustice of others, he had not accused himself of any. He turned away from the little boy, and sitting down at one end of the table, hid his face in his hands. He continued immoveable in this posture for some time.

'Lord!' said Townsend, 'it was an excellent joke.'

'Pooh!' said Fisher, 'what a fool, to think so much about a bun.'

'Never mind, Mr. Archer, if you are thinking about me,' said the little boy, trying gently to pull his hands from his face.

Archer stooped down, and lifted him up upon the table; at which sight the enraged partisans set up a general hiss. 'He has forsaken us! He deserts his party! He wants

to be a Greybeard! After he has got us all into this scrape, he will leave us!'

'I am not going to leave you,' cried Archer; 'no one shall ever accuse me of deserting my party. I'll stick by the Archers, right or wrong, I tell you, to the last moment: but this little fellow—take it as you please, mutiny if you will, and throw me out of the window; call me traitor, coward, greybeard—this little fellow is worth you all put together, and I'll stand by him against whoever dares to lay a finger upon him: and the next morsel of food that I see shall be his; touch him who dares.'

The commanding air with which Archer spoke and looked, and the belief that the little boy deserved his protection, silenced the crowd: but the storm was only hushed.

No sound of merriment was now to be heard, no battledore and shuttlecock, no ball, no marbles. Some sat in a corner, whispering their wishes that Archer would unbar the doors and give up. Others, stretching their arms and gaping, as they sauntered up and down the room, wished for air, or food, or water. Fisher and his nine, who had such firm dependence upon the gipsy, now gave themselves up to utter despair. It was eight o'clock, growing darker and darker every

minute, and no candles, no light could they have. The prospect of another long, dark night made them still more discontented. Townsend, at the head of the yawners, and Fisher, at the head of the hungry malcontents, gathered round Archer, and the few yet unconquered spirits, demanding 'how long he meant to keep them in this dark dungeon? and whether he expected that they should starve themselves to death for his sake?'

The idea of *giving up* was more intolerable to Archer than all the rest; he saw, that the majority, his own convincing argument, was against him. He was therefore obliged to condescend to the arts of persuasion. He flattered some with hopes of food from the town boys. Some he reminded of their promises. Others he praised for former prowess; and others he shamed by the repetition of their high vaunts in the beginning of the business.

It was at length resolved, that at all events they *would hold out*. With this determination, they stretched themselves again to sleep, for the second night, in weak and weary obstinacy.

Archer slept longer and more soundly than usual the next morning, and, when he

awoke, he found his hands tied behind him. Three or four boys had just gotten hold of his feet, which they pressed down, whilst the trembling hands of Fisher were fastening the cord round them. With all the force which rage could inspire, Archer struggled and roared to '*his Archers!*' his friends! his party! for help against the traitors.

But all kept aloof. Townsend, in particular, stood laughing, and looking on. 'I beg your pardon, Archer, but really you look so droll! All alive and kicking! Don't be angry; I'm so weak I cannot help laughing to-day.'

The packthread cracked. 'His hands are free! He's loose!' cried the least of the boys, and ran away, whilst Archer leaped up, and seizing hold of Fisher with a powerful grasp, sternly demanded, 'What he meant by this?'

'Ask my party,' said Fisher, terrified; 'they set me on; ask my party.'

'Your party!' cried Archer, with a look of ineffable contempt: 'You reptile! *your* party! Can such a thing as *you* have a party?'

'To be sure,' said Fisher, settling his collar, which Archer in his surprise, had let

go—' to be sure—why not? Any man who chooses it may have a party as well as yourself, I suppose. I have my nine Fishermen—'

At these words, spoken with much sullen importance, Archer, in spite of his vexation, could not help laughing. 'Fishermen!' cried he, '*Fishermen!*'

'And why not Fishermen as well as Archers?' cried they, 'one party is just as good as another; it is only a question which can get the upper hand; and we had your hands tied just now.'

'That's right, Townsend,' said Archer, 'laugh on, my boy! Friend or foe it's all the same to you. I know how to value your friendship now. You are a mighty good fellow when the sun shines; but let a storm come, and how you slink away!'

At this instant, Archer felt the difference between a *good companion*, and a good friend; a difference which some people do not discover till too late in life.

'Have I no friend? no real friend amongst ye all? And could ye stand by and see my hands tied behind me, like a thief's. What signifies such a party? All mute!'

'We want something to eat,' answered the Fishermen. 'What signifies *such* a

party, indeed? and *such* a manager, who can do nothing for one?'

And have *I* done nothing?'

'Don't let's hear any more prosing,' said Fisher; 'we are too many for you. I've advised my party, if they've a mind not to be starved, to give you up for the ringleader, as you were; and Dr. Middleton will let *us* all off, I dare say.'

So depending upon the sullen silence of the assembly, he again approached Archer with a cord. A cry of 'No! no! no! don't tie him,' was feebly raised.

Archer stood still; but the moment Fisher touched him, he knocked him down to the ground; and, turning to the rest with eyes sparkling with indignation, 'Archers!' cried he.

A voice at this instant was heard at the door; it was De Grey's voice. 'I have a large basket of provision for your breakfast.'

A general shout of joy was sent forth by the voracious publick. 'Breakfast! provision! a large basket! De Grey for ever! Huzza!'

De Grey promised, upon his honour, that if they would unbar the door, nobody should come in with him, and no advantage should

be taken of them. This promise was enough, even for Archer.

'I will let him in,' said he, 'myself, for I'm sure he will never break his word.'

He pulled away the bar—the door opened—and having bargained for the liberty of Melsom, (the little boy who had been shut in by mistake) De Grey pushed in his basket of provision, and locked and barred the door instantly.

Joy and gratitude sparkled in every face, when he unpacked his basket, and spread the table with a plentiful breakfast. A hundred questions were asked him at once—'Eat first,' said he, 'and we will talk afterwards.' This business was quickly dispatched by people who had not tasted food for several hours. Their curiosity increased as their hunger diminished. 'Who sent us breakfast? Does Dr. Middleton know?' were questions reiterated from every mouth.

'He does know,' answered De Grey, 'and the first thing I have to tell you is, that I am your fellow prisoner. I am to stay here till you give up. This was the only condition on which Dr. Middleton would allow me to bring you food, and he will allow no more.'

Every one looked at the empty basket. But Archer, in whom half-vanquished party spirit revived with the strength he had gotten from his breakfast, broke into exclamations in praise of De Grey's magnanimity, as he now imagined that De Grey was become one of themselves.

'And you will join us, will you? that's a noble fellow!'

'No,' answered De Grey, calmly, 'but I hope to persuade, or rather to convince you, that you ought to join me.'

'You would have found it no hard task to have persuaded or convinced us, which ever you pleased,' said Townsend, 'if you had appealed to Archers fasting; but Archers feasting are quite other animals. Even Cesar himself, after breakfast, is quite another thing!' added he, pointing to Archer.

'You may speak for yourself, Mr. Townsend,' replied the insulted hero, 'but not for me, or for Archers in general, if you please. We unbarred the door upon the faith of De Grey's promise—*that* was not giving up. And it would have been just as difficult, I promise you, to persuade or convince me either, that I should give up against my honour before breakfast, as after.'

This spirited speech was applauded by many, who had now forgotten the feelings of famine. Not so Fisher, whose memory was upon this occasion very distinct.

'What nonsense,' and the orator paused for a synonymous expression, but none was at hand. 'What nonsense, and—nonsense is here! Why, don't you remember that dinner-time, supper-time, and breakfast-time will come again? So what signifies mouthing about persuading and convincing. We will not go through again what we did yesterday. Honour me no honour, I don't understand it. I'd rather be flogged at once, as I've been many's the good time for a less thing. I say, we'd better all be flogged at once, which must be the end of it, sooner or later, than wait here to be without dinner, breakfast, and supper, all only because Mr. Archer won't give up, because of his honour, and nonsense!'

Many prudent faces amongst the Fishermen seemed to deliberate at the close of this oration, in which the arguments were brought so 'home to each man's business and bosom.'

'But,' said De Grey, 'when we yield, I hope it will not be merely to get our dinner, gentlemen. When we yield, Archer—'

'Don't address yourself to me,' interrupted Archer, struggling with his pride; 'you have no farther occasion to try to win me; I have no power, no party, you see! and now I find that I have no friends, I don't care what becomes of myself. I suppose I'm to be given up as a ringleader. Here's this Fisher, and a party of his Fishermen, were going to tie me hand and foot, if I had not knocked him down, just as you came to the door, De Grey; and now, perhaps, you will join Fisher's party against me.'

De Grey was going to assure him, that he had no intention of joining any party, when a sudden change appeared in Archer's countenance.

'Silence!' cried Archer, in an imperious tone; and there was silence. Some one was heard to whistle the beginning of a tune, that was perfectly new to every body present, except to Archer, who immediately whistled the conclusion.

'There!' cried he, looking at De Grey with triumph, 'that's a method of holding secret correspondence, whilst a prisoner, which I learned from 'Richard Cœur de Lion.' I know how to make use of every

thing. Hollo, friend! are you there at last?' cried he, going to the ventilator.

'Yes, but we are barred out here.'

'Round to the window, then, and fill your bag; we'll let it down, my lad, in a trice, bar me out who can.'

Archer let down the bag with all the expedition of joy, and it was filled with all the expedition of fear. 'Pull away; make haste, for Heaven's sake!' said the voice from without, 'the gardener will come from dinner else, and we shall be caught. He mounted guard all yesterday at the ventilator; and, though I watched, and watched, till it was darker than pitch, I could not get near you. I don't know what has taken him out of the way now: make haste, pull away!'

The heavy bag was soon pulled up. 'Have you any more?' said Archer.

'Yes plenty—let down quick: I've got the taylor's bag full, which is three times as large as yours, and I've changed clothes with the taylor's boy; so nobody took notice of me as I came down the street.'

'There's my own cousin!' exclaimed Archer; 'there's a noble fellow! there's my own cousin, I acknowledge. Fill the bag, then.'

Several times the bag descended and ascended; and at every unlading of the crane, fresh acclamations were heard. 'I have no more!' at length the boy with the taylor's bag cried.

'Off with you, then; we've enough, and thank you.'

A delightful review was now made of their treasure; busy hands arranged and sorted the heterogeneous mass. Archer, in the height of his glory, looked on, the acknowledged master of the whole. Townsend, who, in prosperity as in adversity, saw and enjoyed the comic foibles of his friends, pushed De Grey, who was looking on with a more good-natured and more thoughtful air: 'Friend,' said he, 'you look like a great philosopher, and Archer like a great hero.'

'And you, Townsend,' said Archer, 'may look like a wit, if you will; but you will never be a hero.'

'No, no,' replied Townsend, 'wits are never heroes, because they are wits: you are out of your wits, and therefore may set up for a hero.'

'Laugh and welcome; I'm not a tyrant. I don't want to restrain any body's wit; but I cannot say I admire puns.'

'Nor I neither,' said the time-serving Fisher, sidling up to the manager, and picking the ice off a piece of plum-cake; 'nor I neither; I hate puns. I can never understand Townsend's *puns;* besides, any body can make puns; and one doesn't want wit either at all times; for instance, when one is going to settle about dinner, or business of consequence. Bless us all, Archer!' continued he, with sudden familiarity, '*What a sight of good things are here!* I'm sure we are much obliged to you and your cousin—I never thought he'd have come. Why, now we can hold out as long as you please. Let us see,' said he, dividing the provision upon the table, 'we can hold out to-day, and all to-morrow, and part of next day, may be. Why, now, we may defy the doctor and the Greybeards; and the doctor will surely give up to us, for, you see, he knows nothing of all this, and he'll think we are starving all this while; and he'd be afraid, you see, to let us starve quite, in reality, for three whole days, because of what would be said in the town. My aunt Barbara, for one, would be *at him*, long before that time was out; and, besides, you know, in that there case, he'd be hanged for murder,

which is quite another thing, in law, from a *Barring out*, you know.'

Archer had not given to this harangue all the attention which it deserved; for his eye was fixed upon De Grey. 'What is De Grey thinking of?' he asked impatiently.

'I am thinking,' said De Grey, 'that Dr. Middleton must believe that I have betrayed his confidence in me. The gardener was ordered away from his watch-post for one half-hour when I was admitted. This half-hour the gardener has made nearly an hour. I never would have come amongst you, if I had foreseen all this. Dr. Middleton trusted me, and now he will repent of his confidence in me.'

'De Grey,' cried Archer, with energy, 'he shall not repent of his confidence in you, nor shall you repent of coming amongst us; you shall find that we have some honour as well as yourself; and I will take care of your honour, as if it were my *own!*'

'Hey-day!' interrupted Townsend, 'are heroes allowed to change sides, pray? And does the chief of the Archers stand talking sentiment to the chief of the Greybeards? In the middle of his own party too!'

'Party!' repeated Archer, disdainfully, 'I have done with parties! I see what

parties are made of. I have felt the want of a friend, and I am determined to make one, if I can.

'That you may do,' said De Grey, stretching out his hand.

'Unbar the doors! Unbar the windows! Away with all these things! I give up for De Grey's sake; he shall not lose his credit on my account.'

'No,' said De Grey, 'you shall not give up for my sake.'

'Well then, I'll give up to do what is *honourable*,' said Archer.

'Why not to do what is *reasonable?*' said De Grey.

'*Reasonable!* O, the first thing that a man of spirit should think of, is, what is *honourable*.'

'But how will he find out *what is* honourable, unless he can reason?'

'O' said Archer, 'his own feelings always tell him what is honourable.'

'Have not *your feelings* changed within these few hours?'

'Yes, with circumstances; but right or wrong, as long as I think it honourable to do so and so, I'm satisfied.'

'But you cannot think any thing honourable, or the contrary, without reasoning;

and as to what you call feeling, it's only a quick sort of reasoning.'

'The quicker the better,' said Archer.

'Perhaps not,' said De Grey, 'we are apt to reason best, when we are not in quite so great a hurry.'

'But,' said Archer, 'we have not always time enough to reason *at first*.'

'You must, however acknowledge,' replied De Grey, smiling, 'that no man but a fool thinks it honourable to be in the wrong *at last*. Is it not, therefore, best to begin by reasoning, to find out the right *at first?*'

'To be sure.'

'And did you reason with yourself at first? And did you find out that it was right to bar Dr. Middleton out of his own school-room, because he desired you not to go into one of his own houses?'

'No; but I should never have thought of heading a Barring out, if he had not shewn partiality; and if you had flown into a passion with me openly, at once, for pulling down your scenery, which would have been quite natural, and not have gone slily and forbid us the house, out of revenge, there would have been none of this work.'

'Why,' said De Grey, 'should you suspect me of such a mean action, when you have never seen or known me do any thing mean, and when, in this instance, you have no proofs?'

'Will you give me your word and honour now, De Grey, before every body here, that you did not do what I suspected?'

'I do assure you, upon my honour, I never, directly or indirectly, spoke to Dr. Middleton about the play-house.'

'Then,' said Archer, 'I'm as glad as if I had found a thousand pounds! Now you are my friend indeed.'

'And Dr. Middleton—why should you suspect him without reason, any more than me?'

'As to that,' said Archer, 'he is your friend, and you are right to defend him; and I won't say another word against him: will that satisfy you?'

'Not quite.'

'Not quite! Then, indeed, you are unreasonable!'

'No; for I don't wish you to yield out of friendship to me, any more than to honour. If you yield to reason, you will be governed by reason another time.'

'Well; but then don't triumph over me, because you have the best side of the argument.'

'Not I! how can I?' said De Grey; 'for now you are on *the best side* as well as myself, are not you? So we may triumph together.'

'You are a good friend!' said Archer, and with great eagerness he pulled down the fortifications, whilst every hand assisted.—The room was restored to order in a few minutes; the shutters were thrown open, the cheerful light let in. The windows were thrown up, and the first feeling of the fresh air was delightful. The green play-ground appeared before them, and the hopes of exercise and liberty brightened the countenances of these voluntary prisoners.

But, alas! they were not yet at liberty! the idea of Dr. Middleton, and the dread of his vengeance, smote their hearts! When the rebels had sent an ambassador with their surrender, they stood in pale and silent suspense, waiting for their doom. 'Ah!' said Fisher, looking up at the broken panes in the windows, 'the doctor will think the most of *that*; he'll never forgive us for that.'

'Hush! here he comes!' His steady step was heard approaching nearer and nearer!

Archer threw open the door, and Dr. Middleton entered. Fisher instantly fell on his knees.

'It is no delight to me to see people on their knees; stand up, Mr. Fisher. I hope you are all conscious, that you have done wrong?'

'Sir,' said Archer, 'they are conscious that they have done wrong, and so am I. I am the ringleader: punish me as you think proper—I submit. Your punishments; your vengeance ought to fall on me alone.'

'Sir,' said Dr. Middleton, calmly, 'I perceive, that whatever else you may have learned in the course of your education, you have not been taught the meaning of the word punishment. Punishment and vengeance do not, with us, mean the same thing. *Punishment* is pain given, with the reasonable hope of preventing those on whom it is inflicted, from doing *in future*, what will hurt themselves or others. *Vengeance* never looks to the *future;* but is the expression of anger for an injury that is past. I feel no anger—you have done me no injury.'

Here many of the little boys looked timidly up at the windows.

'Yes; I see that you have broken my windows; that is a small evil.'

'O, sir, how good! how merciful!' exclaimed those who had been most panic-struck; 'he forgives us!'

'Stay,' resumed Dr. Middleton, 'I cannot forgive you; I shall never revenge, but it is my duty to punish. You have rebelled against the just authority which is necessary to conduct and govern you, whilst you have not sufficient reason to govern and conduct yourselves. Without obedience to your master, as children, you cannot be educated. Without obedience to the laws,' added he, turning to Archer, 'as men, you cannot be suffered in society. You, sir, think yourself a man, I observe; and you think it the part of a man, not to submit to the will of another. I have no pleasure in making others, whether men or children, submit to my *will;* but my reason and experience are superior to yours—your parents at least think so, or they would not have entrusted me with the care of your education. As long as they do entrust you to my care, and as long as I have any hopes of making you wiser and better by punishment, I shall steadily inflict it, whenever I judge it to be necessary, and I judge it to be necessary *now*. This is a long sermon, Mr. Archer, not preached to shew my own eloquence, but to convince your

understanding. Now, as to your punishment!'

'Name it, sir,' said Archer; 'whatever it is, I will cheerfully submit to it.'

'Name it yourself,' said Dr. Middleton, 'and shew me that you now understand the nature of punishment.'

Archer, proud to be treated like a reasonable creature, and sorry that he had behaved like a foolish school-boy, was silent for some time, but at length replied, 'That he would rather not name his own punishment.' He repeated, however, that he 'trusted he should bear it well, whatever it might be.'

'I shall then,' said Dr. Middleton, 'deprive you, for two months, of pocket money, as you have had too much, and have made a bad use of it.'

'Sir,' said Archer, 'I brought five guineas with me to school—this guinea is all that I have left.'

Dr. Middleton received the guinea which Archer offered him, with a look of approbation; and told him that it should be applied to the repairs of the school-room. The rest of the boys waited in silence for the doctor's sentence against them; but not with those

looks of abject fear, with which boys usually expect the sentence of a school-master.

'You shall return from the play-ground, all of you,' said Dr. Middleton, 'one quarter of an hour sooner, for two months to come, than the rest of your companions. A bell shall ring at the appointed time. I give you an opportunity of recovering my confidence by your punctuality.'

'O, sir, we will come the instant, the very instant the bell rings; you shall have confidence in us' cried they eagerly.

'I deserve your confidence, I hope,' said Dr. Middleton, 'for it is my first wish to make you all happy. You do not know the pain that it has cost me to deprive you of food for so many hours.'

Here the boys, with one accord, ran to the place where they had deposited their last supplies. Archer delivered them up to the doctor, proud to shew that they were not reduced to obedience merely by necessity.

'The reason,' resumed Dr. Middleton, having now returned to the usual benignity of his manner, 'the reason why I desired, that none of you should go to that building, (pointing out of the window) was this: I had been informed, that a gang of gipsies had slept there the night before I spoke to you,

one of whom was dangerously ill of a putrid fever. I did not choose to mention my reason to you at that time, for fear of alarming you or your friends. I have had the place cleaned, and you may return to it when you please. The gipsies were yesterday removed from the town.'

'De Grey, you were in the right,' whispered Archer, 'and it was I that was *unjust*.'

'The old woman,' continued the doctor, 'whom you employed to buy food, has escaped the fever, but she has not escaped a gaol, whither she was sent yesterday, for having defrauded you of your money.'

'Mr. Fisher,' said Doctor Middleton, 'as to you, I shall not punish you! I have no hope of making you either wiser or better. Do you know this paper?'

The paper appeared to be a bill for candles and a tinder-box.

'I desired him to buy those things, sir,' said Archer, colouring.

'And did you desire him not to pay for them?'

'No,' said Archer, 'he had half a crown on purpose to pay for them.'

'I know he had; but he chose to apply it to his own private use, and gave it to the gipsy, to buy twelve buns for his own eating.

To obtain credit for the tinder-box and candles, he made use of *this* name,' said he turning to the other side of the bill, and pointing to De Grey's name, which was written at the end of a copy of one of De Grey's exercises.

'I assure you, sir,' cried Archer——

'You need not assure me, sir,' said Dr. Middleton, 'I cannot suspect a boy of your temper of having any part in so base an action. When the people in the shop refused to let Mr. Fisher have the things without paying for them, he made use of De Grey's name, who was known there. Suspecting some mischief, however, from the purchase of the tinder-box, the shopkeeper informed me of the circumstance. Nothing in this whole business gave me half so much pain, as I felt for a moment, when I suspected that De Grey was concerned in it.'

A loud cry, in which Archer's voice was heard most distinctly, declared De Grey's innocence. Dr. Middleton looked round at their eager, honest faces, with benevolent approbation.

'Archer,' said he, taking him by the hand, 'I am heartily glad to see that you have gotten the better of your party-spirit. I

wish you may keep such a friend as you have now beside you. One such friend is worth two such parties.'

'As for you, Mr. Fisher—depart—you must never return hither again.'

In vain he solicited Archer and De Grey to intercede for him. Every body turned away with contempt, and he sneaked out, whimpering in a doleful voice—'What shall I say to my aunt Barbara?'

Extract from the Courier, May, 1790.

'ETON MONTEM.

'YESTERDAY this triennial ceremony took place, with which the publick are too well acquainted, to require a particular description. A collection, called *Salt*, is taken from the publick, which forms a purse, to support the Captain of the School in his studies at Cambridge. This collection is made by the scholars, dressed in fancy dresses, all round the country.

'At eleven o'clock, the youths being assembled in their habiliments at the College, the Royal Family set off from the Castle to see them, and, after walking round the court-yard, they proceeded to Salt Hill in the following order:—

'His Majesty, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Earl of Uxbridge,

'Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Cumberland, Earl Morton, and General Gwynne, all on horseback, dressed in the Windsor uniform, except the Prince of Wales, who wore a suit of dark blue, and a brown surtout over.

'Then followed the Scholars, preceded by the Mareschal Serjeants, the Musicians of the Staffordshire Band, and Mr. Ford, Captain of the Seminary, the Serjeant Major, Serjeants, Colonels, Corporals, Musicians, Ensign, Lieutenant, Steward, Salt Bearers, Polemen, and Runners.

'The cavalcade being brought up by her Majesty and her amiable daughters, in two carriages, and a numerous company of equestrians and pedestrians, all eager to behold their Sovereign and his family; among the former, Lady Lade was foremost in the throng: only two others dared venture their persons on horseback in such a multitude.

'The King and Royal Family were stopped on Eton Bridge by Messrs. Young and Mansfield, the Salt Bearers, to whom their Majesties delivered their customary donation of fifty guineas each.

'At Salt Hill, his Majesty, with his usual affability, took upon himself to arrange the procession round the Royal carriages; and even when the horses were taken off, with

the assistance of the Duke of Kent, fastened the traces round the pole of the coaches, to prevent any inconvenience.

'An exceeding heavy shower of rain coming on, the Prince took leave, and went to the Windmill Inn, till it subsided. The King and his attendants weathered it out in their great coats.

'After the young gentlemen had walked round the carriages, Ensign Vince, and the Salt Bearers, proceeded to the summit of the Hill; but the wind being boisterous, he could not exhibit his dexterity in displaying his flag, and the space being too small before the carriages, from the concourse of spectators, the King kindly acquiesced in not having it displayed under such inconveniences.

'Their Majesties and the Princesses then returned home, the King occasionally stopping to converse with the Dean of Windsor, the Earl of Harrington, and other noblemen.

'The Scholars partook of an elegant dinner at the Windmill Inn, and in the evening walked on Windsor Terrace.

'Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cumberland, after taking leave of their Majesties, set off for town, and honoured the Opera House with their presence in the evening.

'The profit arising from the Salt collected, according to account, amounted to above 800*l*.

'The Stadtholder, the Duke of Gordon, Lord and Lady Melborne, Viscount Brome, and a numerous train of fashionable nobility, were present.

'The following is an account of the dresses, made as usual very handsomely, by Mrs. Snow, milliner, of Windsor:

'Mr. Ford, Captain, with eight gentlemen to attend him as servitors.

'Mr. Sergeant, Marshal.

'Mr. Bradrith, Colonel.

'Mr. Plumtree, Lieutenant.

'Mr. Vince, Ensign.

'Mr. Young, College Salt Bearer; white and gold dress, rich satin bag, covered with gold netting.

'Mr. Mansfield, Oppident, white, purple, and orange dress, trimmed with silver, rich satin bag, purple and silver; each carrying elegant poles, with gold and silver cord.

'Mr. Keity, yellow and black velvet, helmet trimmed with silver.

'Mr. Bartelot, plaid mantle and sandals, Scotch bonnet, a very Douglas.

'Mr. Knapp, flesh-colour and blue; Spanish hat and feathers.

'Mr. Ripley, rose-colour; helmet.

'Mr. Islip (being in mourning,) a scarf; helmet, black velvet, and white satin.

'Mr. Tomkins, violet and silver; helmet.

'Mr. Thackery, lilac and silver; Roman cap.

'Mr. Drury, Mazarin blue; fancy cap.

'Mr. Davis, slate-colour and straw.

'Mr. Routh, pink and silver; Spanish hat.

'Mr. Curtis, purple; fancy cap.

'Mr. Lloyd, blue; ditto.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Royal family returned to Windsor, and the boys were all sumptuously entertained at the tavern, at Salt Hill. About six in the evening all the boys returned in the order of procession, and, marching round a great square of Eton, were dismissed. The Captain then paid his respects to the Royal Family, at the Queen's Lodge, Windsor, previous to his departure for King's College, Cambridge, to defray which expense, the produce of the Montem was presented to him.

The day concluded by a brilliant promenade of beauty, rank and fashion, on Windsor Terrace, enlivened by the performance of several bands of music.

The origin of the procession is from the custom by which the Manor was held.

The custom of hunting the Ram belonged to Eton College, as well as the custom of Salt, but it was discontinued by Dr. Cook, late Dean of Ely. Now this custom we know to have been entered on the register of the Royal Abbey of Bec, in Normandy, as one belonging to the Manor of East or Great Wrotham, in Norfolk, given by Ralph De Toni to the Abbey of Bec, and was as follows:—'When the harvest was finished, the tenants were to have half an acre of barley, and a ram let loose, and if they caught him, he

was their own to make merry with, but if he escaped from them, he was the Lord's. The Etonians, in order to secure the ram, houghed him in the Irish fashion, and then attacked him with great clubs. The cruelty of this proceeding brought it into disuse, and now it exists no longer. *(See the Register of the Royal Abbey of Bec, folio* 58.*)*

'After the dissolution of the alien priories, in 1414, by the Parliament of Leicester, they remained in the Crown till Henry VI, who gave Wrotham Manor to Eton College; and if the Eton fellows would search, they would perhaps find the Manor in their possession, that was held by the custom of Salt.'

MEN.

Alderman Bursal, Father of young Bursal.
Lord John,
Talbot,
Wheeler,
Bursal,
Rory O'Ryan.
} Young Gentlemen of Eton, from 17 to 19 years of age.
Mr. Newington, Landlord of the Inn at Salt Hill.
Farmer Hearty,
A Waiter—and crowd of Eton Lads.

WOMEN.

The Marchioness of Piercefield, Mother of Lord John.
Lady Violetta—her Daughter—a Child of six or seven years old.
Mrs. Talbot.
Louisa Talbot, her Daughter.
Miss Bursal, Daughter to the Alderman.
Mrs. Newington, Landlady of the Inn at Salt Hill.
Sally, a Chambermaid.
Patty, a Country Girl.
Pipe and Tabor, and Dance of Peasants.

ETON MONTEM.

SCENE I.

The Bar of the Windmill Inn at Salt Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Newington, the Landlord and Landlady.

Landlady. 'Tis an unpossibility, Mr. Newington, and that's enough. Say no more about it: 'tis an unpossibility in the *natur* of things. *(She ranges jellies, &c. in the bar.)* And pray, do take your great, old-fashioned tankard, Mr. Newington, from among my jellies and confectionaries.

Landlord. (takes his tankard and drinks.) Any thing for a quiet life. If it is an unpossibility, I've no more to say; only, for the soul of me, I can't see the great unpossibility, wife.

Landlady. Wife, indeed! Wife! wife! wife every minute.

Landlord. Hey day! Why what a plague would you have me call you? The other

day you quarrelled with me for calling you Mrs. Landlady.

Landlady. To be sure I did, and very proper in me I should. I've turned off three waiters and five chamber-maids already, for screaming after me *Mrs. Landlady! Mrs. Landlady!* But 'tis all your ill manners.

Landlord. Ill manners! Why, if I may be so bold—if you are not Mrs. Landlady, in the name of wonder what are you?

Landlady. *Mrs. Newington*, Mr. Newington.

Landlord. *(drinks)* Mrs. Newington, Mr. Newington drinks your health; for I suppose I must not be landlord no more in my own house. *(shrugs)*

Landlady. O, as to that, I have no objections nor impediments to your being called *Landlord:* you look it and become it—very proper.

Landlord. Why yes, thank God and my tankard, I do look it, and become it, and am nowise ashamed of it; but every one to their mind, as you, wife, don't fancy the being called Mrs. Landlady.

Landlady. To be sure I don't. Why, when folks hear the old-fashioned cry of Mrs. Landlady! Mrs. Landlady! what do they expect, think you, to see, but an over-

grown, fat, feather-bed of a woman, coming waddling along with her thumbs sticking on each side of her apron, o' this fashion? Now to see me coming, nobody would take me to be a landlady.

Landlord. Very true, indeed, wife—Mrs. Newington, I mean—I ask pardon: but now to go on with what we were saying about the unpossibility of letting that old lady, and the civil-spoken young lady there above, have them there rooms for another day.

Landlady. Now, Mr. Newington, let me hear no more about that old gentlewoman, and that civil-spoken young lady. Fair words cost nothing; and I've a notion that's the cause they are so plenty with the young lady. Neither o' them, I take it, by what they've ordered since their coming into the house, are such grand folk that one need be so *petticlar* about them.

Landlord. Why they came only in a chaise and pair, to be sure; I can't deny that.

Landlady. But, bless my stars! what signifies talking? Don't you know, as well as I do, Mr. Newington, that to-morrow is Eton Montem; and that if we had twenty times as many rooms, and as many more to the back of them, it would not be one too many for all the company we've a right to expect,

and those the highest quality o' the land.—Nay, what do I talk of to-morrow; isn't my lady Piercefield and suite expected? and moreover, Mr. and Miss Bursal's to be here, and will call for as much in an hour as your civil-spoken young lady in a twelvemonth, I reckon. So, Mr. Newington, if you don't think proper to go up, and inform the ladies above, that the Dolphin rooms are not for them, I must *speak* myself, though 'tis a thing I never do when I can help it.

Landlord. *(aside)* She not like to speak! *(aloud)* My dear, you can speak a power better than I can: so take it all upon yourself, if you please: for, old-fashioned as I and my tankard here be, I can't make a speech that borders on the uncivil order to a lady, like, for the life and lungs of me. So, in the name of goodness, do you go up, Mrs. Newington.

Landlady. And so I will, Mr. Newington. Help ye! Civilities and rarities are out o' season for them that can't pay for them in this world, and very proper.

[*Exit Landlady.*

Landlord. And very proper! Ha! who comes yonder? The Eton chap, who wheedled me into lending him my best hunter last year, and was the ruination of him: but that

must be paid for, wheedle or no wheedle; and, for the matter of wheedling, I'd stake this here Mr. Wheeler, that is making up to me, do you see, against e'er a boy, man, or hobbledehoy, in all Eton, London, or Christendom, let the other be who he will.

Enter WHEELER.

Wheel. A fine day, Mr. Newington.

Landlord. A fine day, Mr. Wheeler.

Wheel. And I hope, for *your* sake, we may have as fine a day for the Montem to-morrow. It will be a pretty penny in your pocket! Why, all the world will be here; and *(looking round at the jellies &c.)* so much the better for them, for here are good things enough, and enough for them. And here's the best thing of all, the good old tankard still: not empty, I hope.

Landlord. Not empty, I hope. Here's to you, Mr. Wheeler.

Wheel. Mr. Wheeler! *Captain* Wheeler, if you please.

Landlord. You Captain Wheeler! Why, I thought in former times it was always the oldest scholar at Eaton, that was captain at the Montems; and didn't Mr. Talbot come afore you?

Wheel. Not at all; we came on the same day: some say I came first, some say Talbot; so the choice of which of us two is to be captain, is to be put to the vote amongst the lads: most votes carry it; and I have most votes, I fancy, so I shall be captain to-morrow; and a devilish deal of *salt*,* I reckon, I shall pocket. Why, the collection at the last Montem, they say, came to a plump thousand! No bad thing for a young fellow to set out with for Oxford or Cambridge—hey!

Landlord. And no bad thing, before he sets out for Cambridge or Oxford, 'twould be, for a young gentleman to pay his debts.

Wheel. Debts! O, time enough for that. I've a little account with you for horses, I know; but that's between you and I, you know—mum.

Landlord. Mum me no mums, Mr. Wheeler. Between you and I, my best hunter has been ruinationed; and I can't afford to be mum. So you'll take no offence if I speak; and as you'll set off to-morrow as soon as the Montem's over, you'll be pleased to settle it with me some way or other to-day, as we've no other time.

* *Salt*, the *cant* name given by Eton lads to the money collected at Montem.

Wheel. No time so proper, certainly. Where's the little account? I have money sent me for my Montem dress, and I can squeeze that much out of it. I came over from Eton on purpose to settle with you. But as to the hunter, you must call upon Talbot, do you understand, to pay for him: for, though Talbot and I had him the same day, 'twas Talbot did for him, and Talbot must pay. I spoke to him about it, and charged him to remember you; for I never forget to speak a good word for my friends.

Landlord. So I perceive.

Wheel. I'll make bold just to give you my opinion of these jellies, whilst you are getting my account, Mr. Newington.

[*He swallows down a jelly or two—*
Landlord is going—

Enter TALBOT.

Tal. Hollo, landlord! where are you making off so fast? Here, your jellies are all going as fast as yourself.

Wheel. (aside) Talbot! I wish I was a hundred miles off.

Landlord. You are heartily welcome, Mr. Talbot. A good morning to you, sir: I'm

glad to see you—very glad to see you, Mr. Talbot.

Tal. Then shake hands, my honest landlord.

[*Talbot, in shaking hands with him, puts a purse into the landlord's hands.*

Landlord. What's here? guineas!

Tal. The hunter, you know; since Wheeler won't pay, I must—that's all.—Good morning.

Wheel. (aside) What a fool!

[*Landlord, as Talbot is going, catches hold of his coat.*

Landlord. Hold, Mr. Talbot! this won't do.

Tal. Won't it? Well, then, my watch must go.

Landlord. Nay, nay! but you are in such a cursed hurry to pay, you won't hear a man. Half this is enough for your share o' the mischief, in all conscience. Mr. Wheeler, there, had the horse on the same day.

Wheel. But Bursal's my witness—

Tal. O, say no more about witnesses; a man's conscience is always his best witness, or his worst. Landlord, take your money, and no more words.

Wheel. This is very genteel of you, Talbot. I always thought you would do the

genteel thing, as I knew you to be so generous and considerate.

Tal. Don't waste your fine speeches, Wheeler, I advise you, this election time. Keep them for Bursal, or Lord John, or some of those who like them. They won't go down with *me*. Good morning to you. I give you notice I'm going back to Eton as fast as I can gallop; and who knows what plain speaking may do with the Eton lads? I may be captain yet, Wheeler. Have a care! Is my horse ready, there?

Landlord. Mr. Talbot's horse, there! Mr. Talbot's horse, I say.

TALBOT *sings.*

'He carries weight—he rides a race—
'Tis for a thousand pound!'

[*Exit Talbot.*

Wheel. And, dear me! I shall be left behind. A horse for me, pray; a horse for Mr. Wheeler.

[*Exit Wheeler.*

Landlord. (calls very loud) Mr. Talbot's horse! Hang the hostler! I'll saddle him myself.

[*Exit Landlord.*

SCENE.

A Dining-room in the Inn at Salt Hill.

MRS. TALBOT *and* LOUISA.

Louisa. (laughing) With what an air Mrs. Landlady made her exit!

Mrs. Tal. When I was young, they say I was proud; but I am humble enough now: these petty mortifications do not vex me.

Louisa. It is well my brother was gone before Mrs. Landlady made her *entrée;* for if he had heard her rude speech, he would have given her, at least, the retort courteous.

Mrs. Tal. Now, tell me honestly, my Louisa——You were, a few days ago, at Bursal House. Since you have left it, and have felt something of the difference that is made in this world between splendour and no splendour, have you never regretted, that you did not stay there, and that you did not bear more patiently with Miss Bursal's little airs?

Louisa. Never for a moment. At first Miss Bursal paid me a vast deal of attention; but, for what reason I know not, she suddenly changed her manner, grew first

strangely cold, then condescendingly familiar, and at last downright rude. I could not guess the cause of these variations.

Mrs. Tal. (aside) I guess the cause too well.

Louisa. But as I perceived the lady was out of tune, I was in haste to leave her. I should make a very bad, and, I am sure, a very miserable toad-eater. I had much rather, if I were obliged to choose, earn my own bread, than live as toad-eater with any body.

Mrs. Tal. Fine talking, dear Louisa!

Louisa. Don't you believe me to be in earnest, mother? To be sure you cannot know what I would do, unless I were put to the trial.

Mrs. Tal. Nor you either, my dear.

[*She sighs, and is silent.*

Louisa. (takes her mother's hand) What is the matter, dear mother? You used to say, that seeing my brother always made you feel ten years younger; yet even whilst he was here, you had, in spite of all your efforts to conceal them, these sudden fits of sadness.

Mrs. Tal. The Montem—is not it to-morrow? Aye; but my boy is not sure of being captain.

Louisa. No, there is one Wheeler, who, as he says, is most likely to be chosen captain. He has taken prodigious pains to flatter and win over many to his interest. My brother does not so much care about it; he is not avaricious.

Mrs. Tal. I love your generous spirit and his; but, alas! my dear, people may live to want and wish for money without being avaricious. I would not say a word to Talbot; full of spirits, as he was this morning, I would not say a word to him, till after the Montem, of what has happened.

Louisa. And what has happened, dear mother? Sit down, you tremble.

Mrs. Tal. (*sits down, and puts a letter into Louisa's hand*) Read that love. A messenger brought me that from town a few hours ago.

Louisa. (*reads*) 'By an express from ortsmouth, we hear, the Bombay Castle st Indiaman is lost, with all your fortune c. board.' *All!* I hope there is something left for you to live upon.

Mrs. Tal. About 150*l.* a year for us all.

Louisa. That is enough, is not it, for *you?*

Mrs. Tal. For me love? I am an old woman, and want but little in this world, and shall be soon out of it.

Louisa. (*kneels down beside her*) Do not speak so dearest mother.

Mrs. Tal. Enough for me, love! Yes, enough, and too much for me. I am not thinking of myself.

Louisa. Then, as to my brother, he has such abilities, and such industry, he will make a fortune at the bar for himself most certainly.

Mrs. Tal. But his education is not completed. How shall we provide him with money at Cambridge?

Louisa. This Montem—the last time the captain had eight hundred, the time before, a thousand pounds. O, I hope—I fear! Now, indeed, I know that without being avaricious, we may want and wish for money.

[*Landlady's voice heard behind the scenes.*

Landlady. Waiter! Miss Bursal's curricle, and Mr. Bursal's vis-a-vis. Run, see that the Dolphin's empty. I say run, run.

Mrs. Tal. I will rest for a few minutes, upon the sofa, in this bed chamber, before we set off.

Louisa (*goes to open the door.*) They have bolted, or locked it. How unlucky!

[*She turns the key, and tries to unlock the door.*

Enter WAITER.

Wait. Ladies, I'm sorry—Miss Bursal and Mr. Bursal are come—just coming up stairs.

Mrs. Tal. Then will you be so good, sir, as to unlock this door?

[*Waiter tries to unlock the door.*

Wait. It must be bolted on the inside. Chambermaid! Sally! Are you within there? Unbolt this door.

[*Mr. Bursal's voice behind the scenes.*] Let me have a basin of good soup directly.

Wait. I'll go round, and have the door unbolted immediately, ladies.

[*Exit Waiter.*

Enter MISS BURSAL, *in a riding dress, and with a long whip.*

Miss Burs. Those devils, the ponies, have a'most pulled my *'and* off. Who *'ave* we *'ere?* Ha! Mrs. Talbot! Louisa! *'ow* are ye? I'm so vastly glad to see you: but I'm so shocked to *'ear* of the loss of the Bombay Castle. Mrs. Talbot, you look but poorly: but this Montem will put every body in spirits. I *'ear* every body's to be *'ere*, and my brother tells me *'twill* be the finest

ever seen at *H'*Eton. Louisa, my dear, I'm sorry I've not a seat for you in my curricle for to-morrow: but I've promised Lady Betty; so you know, 'tis impossible for me.

Louisa. Certainly; and it would be impossible for me to leave my mother at present.

Chambermaid. (*opens the bed-chamber door.*) The room's ready, now, ladies.

Mrs. Tal. Miss Bursal—we intrude upon you no longer.

Miss Burs. Nay, why do ye decamp, Mrs. Talbot? I *'ad* a thousand things to say to you, Louisa; but am so tired, and so annoyed——

[*Seats herself. Exeunt Mrs. Talbot, Louisa, and Chambermaid.*]

Enter MR. BURSAL, *with a basin of soup in his hand.*

Mr. Burs. Well, thank my stars, the *Airly* Castle is safe in the Downs.

Miss Burs. Mr. Bursal, can you inform me why Joe, my groom, does not make his appearance?

Mr. Burs. (*eating and speaking*) Yes, that I can, child, because he is with his *'orses*, where he ought to be. 'Tis fit they

should be looked after well, for they cost me a pretty penny; more than their heads are worth, and your's into the bargain: but I was resolved, as we were to come to this Montem, to come in style.

Miss Burs. In style, to be sure; for all the world's to be here—the King, and Prince o' Whales, and Duke o' York, and all the first people; and we shall cut such a dash! Dash! Dash! will be the word to-morrow. *(playing with her whip.)*

Mr. Burs. (aside) Dash! Dash! Aye, just like her brother. He'll pay away finely, I warrant, by the time he's her age.—Well, well, he can afford it; and I do love to see my children make a figure for their money. As Jack Bursal says, what's money for, if it e'nt to make a figure? *(aloud)* There's your brother Jack, now, the extravagant dog, he'll have such a dress as never was seen, I suppose, at this here Montem. Why, now, Jack Bursal spends more money at Eton, and has more to spend, than my Lord John, though my Lord John's the son of a marchioness.

Miss Burs. O! that makes no difference now a-days. I wonder whether her ladyship is to be at this Montem. The only good I never got out of those stupid Talbots was

an introduction to their friend, Lady Piercefield. What she could find to like in the Talbots, heaven knows. I've a notion she'll drop them, when she hears of the loss of *the Bombay Castle*.

Enter a WAITER *with a note.*

Wait. A note from my lady Piercefield, sir.

Miss Burs. Charming woman! Is she here, pray sir?

Wait. Just come—yes ma'am.

[*Exit waiter.*

Miss B. Well, Mr. Bursal, what is it?

Mr. B. (reads) 'Business of importance to communicate'—hum—what can it be?

(*going.*)

Miss B. (*aside*) Perhaps some match to propose for me! (*aloud*) Mr. Bursal, pray, before you go to her ladyship, do send my *ooman* to me to make me *presentable*.

[*Exit Miss Bursal at one door.*

Mr. Burs. (*at the opposite door*) 'Business of importance'—hum! I'm glad I'm prepared with a good basin of soup: there's no doing business well upon an empty stomach. Perhaps the business is to lend cash;

and I've no great stomach for that: but it will be an honour, to be sure.

[*Exit.*

SCENE.

LANDLADY'S *parlour.*

Landlady—Mr. Finsbury, a man milliner, with band-boxes—a fancy cap, or helmet, with feathers, in the landlady's hand—a satin bag covered with gold netting, in the man-milliner's hand—a mantle hanging over his arm— a rough-looking farmer is sitting with his back towards them, eating bread and cheese, and reading a newspaper.

Landlady. Well, this, to be sure, will be the best dressed Montem that ever was seen at Eton; and you Lon'on gentlemen have the most fashionablest notions: and this is the most elegantest fancy cap—

Fins. Why, as you observe, ma'am, that is the most elegant fancy cap of them all. That is Mr. Hector Hogmorton's fancy cap, ma'am; and here, ma'am, is Mr. Saul's rich satin bag, covered with gold net. He is college salt bearer, I understand, and has

a prodigious superb white and gold dress. But, in my humble opinion, ma'am, the marshal's white, and purple, and orange fancy dress, trimmed with silver, will bear the bell; though, indeed, I shouldn't say that; for the colonel's, and lieutenant's, and ensign's, are beautiful in the extreme. And, to be sure, nothing can be better imagined than Mr. Marlborough's lilac and silver, with a Roman cap. And it must be allowed, that nothing in nature can have a better effect than Mr. Drake's flesh-colour and blue, with this Spanish hat, ma'am you see.

[*The farmer looks over his shoulder from time to time, during this speech, with contempt.*

Farm. (*reads the newspaper*) French fleet at sea—hum!

Landlady. O, gemini! Mr. Drake's Spanish hat is the sweetest, tasty thing! Mr. Finsbury, I protest——

Mr. Fins. Why, *ma'am*, I knew a lady of your taste couldn't but approve of it. My own invention, entirely, ma'am. But it's nothing to the captain's cap ma'am. Indeed, ma'am, Mr. Wheeler, the captain that is to be, has the prettiest taste in dress. To be sure, his sandals were my suggestion; but the mantle he has the entire credit of, to

do him justice; and, when you see it ma'am, you will be really surprised; for, for contrast, and elegance, and richness, and lightness, and propriety, and effect, and costume, you've never yet seen any thing at all to be compared to captain Wheeler's mantle, ma'am.

Farm. *(to the landlady)* Why now, pray, Mrs. Landlady, how long may it have been the fashion for milliners to go about in men's clothes?

Landlady. *(aside to farmer)* Lord, Mr. Hearty, hush! This is Mr. Finsbury, the great man-milliner.

Farm. The great man-milliner! This is a sight I never thought to see in Old England.

Fins. *(packing up band-boxes)* Well ma'am, I'm glad I have your approbation. It has ever been my study to please the ladies.

Farm. *(throws a fancy mantle over his frieze coat)* And is this the way to please the ladies, Mrs. Landlady, now a-days?

Fins. *(taking off the mantle)* Sir, with your leave—I ask pardon—but the least thing detriments these tender colours; and as you have just been eating cheese with your hands—

Farm. 'Tis my way to eat cheese with my mouth, man.

Fins. Man!

Farm. I ask pardon—man-milliner, I mean.

Enter LANDLORD.

Landlord. Why, wife!

Landlady. Wife!

Landlord. I ask pardon—Mrs. Newington, I mean. Do you know who them ladies are, that you have been and turned out of the Dolphin?

Landlady. (alarmed) Not I, indeed.—Who are they, pray? Why, if they are quality, it's no fault of mine; it is their own fault, for coming like scrubs, without four horses. Why, if quality will travel the road this way, incognito, how can they expect to be known and treated as quality! 'Tis no fault of mine: why didn't you find out sooner, who they were, Mr. Newington? What else, in the 'versal world, have you to do, but to go basking about in the yards and places, with your tankard in your hand, from morning to night? What have you else to ruminate all day long, but to find out who's who, I say?

Farm. Clapper! clapper! clapper! like my mill in a high wind, landlord: clapper! clapper! clapper! enough to stun a body—

Landlord. That is not used to it; but use is all, they say.

Landlady. Will you answer me, Mr. Newington? Who are the grandees that were in the Dolphin? and what's become *on* them?

Landlord. Grandees was your own word, wife. They be not to call grandees; but I reckon you'd be sorry not to treat 'em civil, when I tell you their name is Talbot—mother and sister to our young Talbot of Eton, he that paid me so handsome for the hunter this very morning.

Landlady. Mercy! is that all? What a combustion for nothing in life!

Fins. For nothing in life, as you say, ma'am; that is, nothing in high life, I'm sure ma'am, nay I dare a'most venture to swear: for, would you believe it, Mr. Talbot is one of the few young gentlemen of Eton that has not bespoke from me a fancy dress for this grand Montem.

Landlady. There, Mr. Newington!—there's your Mr. Talbot for you! and there's your grandees! O, trust me, I know your scrubs at first sight.

Landlord. Scrubs, I don't, nor can't, nor won't call them that pay their debts honest. Scrubs, I don't, nor won't, nor can't call them that behave as handsome as young Mr. Talbot did here to me this morning, about the hunter. A scrub he is not wife. Fancy dress or no fancy dress, Mr. Finsbury, this young gentleman is no scrub.

Fins. Dear me! 'twas not I said *scrub.* Did I say scrub?

Farm. No matter if you did.

Fins. No matter, certainly: and yet it is a matter; for I'm confident I wouldn't for the world, leave it in any one's power to say that I said—that I called any young gentleman of Eton a *scrub.* Why you know sir, it might breed a riot.

Farm. And a pretty figure you'd make in a riot!

Landlady. Pray let me hear nothing about riots in my house.

Farm. Nor about scrubs.

Fins. But I beg leave to explain, gentlemen. All I ventured to remark or suggest, was, that as there was some talk of Mr. Talbot's being captain to-morrow, I didn't conceive how he could well appear without any dress. That was all, upon my word and honour. A good morning to you gentlemen,

it is time for me to be off. Mrs. Newington, you were so obliging to promise to accommodate me with a return chaise as far as Eton. [*Finsbury bows and exit.*

Farm. A good day to you and your bandboxes. There's a fellow for you now! Ha! ha! ha! A man-milliner, forsooth!

Landlord. Mrs. Talbot's coming; stand back.

Landlady. Lord! why does Bob shew them through this way?

Enter MRS. TALBOT, *leaning on* LOUISA, *Waiter shewing the way.*

Landlady. You are going on, I suppose, ma'am.

Waiter. (*aside to landlady*) Not if she could help it; but there's no beds since Mr. Bursal and Miss Bursal's come.

Landlord. I say nothing, for 'tis in vain to say more. But is'nt it a pity she can't stay for the Montem, poor old lady! Her son—as good and fine a lad as ever you saw—they say, has a chance, too, of being captain. She may never live to see another such a sight.

[*As Mrs. Talbot walks slowly on, the farmer puts himself across her way, so as to stop her short.*

Farm. No offence, madam, I hope ; but I have a good snug farm-house, not far off hand, and if so be you'd be so good to take a night's lodging, you and the young lady with you, you'd have a hearty welcome—that's all I can say—and you'd make my wife very happy, for she's a good woman, to say nothing of myself.

Landlord. If I may be so bold to put in my word, madam, you'd have as good beds, and be as well lodged with farmer Hearty, as in e'er a house at Salt Hill.

Mrs. Tal. I am very much obliged—

Farm. O, say nothing o' that, madam ; I am sure I shall be as much obliged, if you do come. Do, miss, speak for me.

Louisa. Pray, dear mother——

Farm. She will. *(calls behind the scenes)* Here, waiter! hostler! driver! what's your name. Drive the chaise up here to the door, smart, close. Lean on my arm, madam, and we'll have you in and at home in a whiff.

[*Exeunt Mrs. Talbot, Louisa, Farmer, Landlord, and Waiter.*

LANDLADY *sola.*

Lord, what a noise and a rout this farmer man makes! And my husband, with his

great broad face, bowing, as great a nincompoop as t'other. The folks are all bewitched with the old woman, I verily believe. *(aloud)* A good morning to you ladies.

END OF THE FIRST ACT.

SECOND ACT.

SCENE I.

A field near Eton College—several boys crossing backwards and forwards in the back ground. In front, Talbot, Wheeler, Lord John, and Bursal.

Tal. Fair play, Wheeler! Have at 'em, my boy! There they stand, fair game! There's Bursal there with his *dead* forty-five votes at command; and Lord John with his—how many live friends?

Lord J. (coolly) Sir, I have fifty-six friends, I believe.

Tal. Fifty-six friends, his lordship believes—Wheeler inclusive, no doubt.

Lord J. That's as hereafter may be.

Wheel. Hereafter! O, fie, my *Lud!* You know your own Wheeler has, from the first minute he ever saw you, been your fast friend.

Tal. Your fast friend from the first minute he ever saw you, my lord! That's well hit, Wheeler; stick to that; stick fast. Fifty-six friends, Wheeler *in*clusive, hey, my Lord, hey my *Lud!*

Lord J. Talbot *ex*clusive, I find, contrary to my expectations.

Tal. Aye, contrary to your expectations, you find that Talbot is not a dog that will lick the dust: but then, there's enough of the true spaniel breed to be had for whistling for, hey Wheeler!

Burs. *(aside to Wheeler)* A damn'd bad electioneerer! So much the better for you, Wheeler. Why, unless he bought a vote, he'd never win one, if he talked from this to the day of judgment.

Wheel. *(aside to Bursal)* And as he has no money to buy votes—he! he! he! we are safe enough.

Tal. That's well done, Wheeler; fight the by battle there with Bursal, now you are sure of the main with Lord John.

Lord J. Sure! I never made Mr. Wheeler any promise yet.

Wheel. O, I ask no promise from his lordship: we are upon honour: I trust entirely to his lordship's good nature and generosity, and to his regard for his own family; I having the honour, though distantly, to be related.

Lord J. Related! How, Wheler?

Wheel. Connected, I mean, which is next door, as I may say, to being related—related slipt out by mistake—I beg pardon, my Lord John.

Lord J. Related! A strange mistake, Wheeler.

Tal. Overshot yourself, Wheeler—overshot yourself, by all that's awkward. And yet, till now, I always took you for '*a dead shot at a yellow-hammer.*'*

Wheel. (taking Bursal by the arm) Bursal, a word with you. *(aside to Bursal)* What a lump of family pride that Lord John is!

Tal. Keep out of my hearing, Wheeler, lest I should spoil sport. But never fear, you'll please Bursal sooner than I shall: I can't, for the soul of me, bring myself to say

* Young noblemen at Oxford, wear yellow tufts at the tops of their caps. Hence their flatterers are said to be dead shots at yellow-hammers.

that Bursal's not purse-proud, and you can—give you joy!

Burs. A choice electioneerer! Ha! ha! ha!

Wheel. (faintly) He! he! he! a choice electioneerer, as you say.

[*Exeunt Wheeler and Bursal, manent Lord J. and Talbot.*

Lord J. There was a time, Talbot—

Tal. There was a time my lord—to save trouble and a long explanation—there was a time when you liked Talbots better than spaniels; you understand me.

Lord J. I have found it very difficult, to understand you of late, Mr. Talbot.

Tal. Yes; because you have used other people's understandings instead of your own. Be yourself, my lord. See with your own eyes, and hear with your own ears, and then you'll find me still what I've been these seven years: not your understrapper, your hanger on, your flatterer, but—your friend. If you choose to have me for a friend, here's my hand—I am your friend—and you'll not find a better.

Lord J. (giving his hand) You are a strange fellow, Talbot. I thought I never could have forgiven you for what you said last night.

Tal. What? for I don't keep a register of my sayings. O, it was something about gaming; Wheeler was flattering your taste for it, and he put me into a passion. I forgot what I said; but whatever it was, I'm sure it was well meant, and, I believe, it was well said.

Lord J. But you laugh at me sometimes to my face.

Tal. Would you rather I should laugh at you behind your back?

Lord J. But of all things in the world, I hate to be laughed at. Listen to me, and don't fumble in your pockets while I am talking to you.

Tal. I'm fumbling for—O here it is. Now, Lord John, I once did laugh at you behind your back, and what's droll enough, it was *at* your back I laughed. Here's a caricatura I drew of you; I really am sorry I did it—but 'tis best to shew it to you myself.

Lord J. (aside) It is all I can do to forgive this. *(after a pause he tears the paper)* I have heard of this caricatura before, but I did not expect that you would come and shew it to me yourself, Talbot, so handsomely, especially at such a time as this. Wheeler might well say you are a bad electioneerer.

Tal. O hang it! I forgot my election, and your fifty-six friends.

Enter RORY O'RYAN.

Rory. *(claps Talbot on the back)* Fifty-six friends have you, Talbot? Say seven—fifty-seven I mean, for I'll lay ye a wager you've forgot me, and that's a shame for you too; for out of the whole posse-comitatus entirely now, you have not a stauncher friend than poor little Rory O'Ryan. And a good right he has to befriend you, for you stood by him, when many, that ought to have known better, were hunting him down for a wild Irishman. Now that same wild Irishman has as much gratitude in him as any tame Englishman of them all. But don't let's be talking sintimint, for, for my share, I'd not give a bogberry a bushel for sintimint when I could get any thing better—

Lord J. And pray, sir, what may a bogberry be?

Rory. Phoo! don't be playing the innocent, now. Where have you lived all your life (I ask pardon my lard) not to know a bogberry when you see it, or hear of it? *(turns to Talbot.)* But what are ye standing idling here for? Sure there's Wheeler,

and Bursal along with him, canvassing out yonder at a terrible fine rate. And haven't I been huzzaing for you there till I'm hoarse, so I am, and just stepped away to suck an orange for my voice? *(sucks an orange)* I am a *thorough going* friend at any rate.

Tal. Now, Rory, you are the best fellow in the world, and a *thorough going* friend; but have a care, or you'll get yourself and me into some scrape, before you have done with this violent *thorough going* work.

Rory. Never fear! Never fear, man! a warm *frind* and a bitter enemy, that's my maxim.

Tal. Yes, but too warm a friend is as bad as a bitter enemy.

Rory. O! never fear me! I'm as cool as a cucumber all the time; and whilst they *tink* I'm *tinking* of nothing in life but making a noise, I make my own little snug remarks in prose and verse as—now my voice is after coming back to me, you shall hear if you *plase*.

Tal. I do please.

Rory. I call it—Rory's song. Now mind, I have a verse for every body, o' the leading lads I mean, and I shall put 'em in or *lave* 'em out according to their inclinations and

deserts, *wis-a-wee* to you, my little *frind*. So you comprehend it will be Rory's song with variations.

Talbot and Lord John. Let's have it—let us have it without farther preface.

RORY *sings.*

'I'm true game to the last, and no *Wheeler* for me.'

Rory. There's a stroke in the first place for Wheeler, you take it.

Tal. O yes, yes, we take it; go on.

RORY *sings.*

'I'm true game to the last, and no Wheeler for me,
'Of all birds, beasts, or fishes that swim in the sea,
'Webbed, or finned, black or white, man or child,
'whig or tory,
'None but Talbot, O, Talbot's the dog for Rory.'

Tal. Talbot the dog is much obliged to you.

Lord J. But if I have any ear, one of your lines is a foot too long, Mr. O'Ryan.

Rory. Phoo! put the best foot foremost for a *frind*. Slur it in the singing—and don't be quarrelling any how for a foot more or less—the more feet, the better it will stand,

you know--Only let me go on, and you'll come to something that will *plase* you.

RORY *sings.*

'Then there's he with a purse that's as long as my 'arm.'

Rory. That's Bursal, mind now, in this verse I mean to allude to.

Lord J. If the allusion's good, we shall probably find out your meaning.

Tal. On with you, Rory, and don't read us notes on a song.

Lord J. Go on, and let us hear what you say of Bursal.

RORY *sings.*

'Then there's he with a purse that's as long as my 'arm,
'His father's a tanner, but then where's the harm?
'Heir to houses, and hunters, and horseponds in fee,
'Won't his skins sure soon buy him a pedigree.'

Lord J. Encore! encore! why Rory I did not think you could make so good a song.

Rory. Sure 'twas none of I made it—'twas Talbot here.

Tal. I!

Rory. (aside) Not a word—I'll make you a present of it, sure then it's your own.

Tal. I never wrote a word of it.

Rory. (to Lord J.) Phoo! phoo! he's only denying it out of false modesty.

Lord J. Well, no matter who wrote it, sing it again.

Rory. Be easy—so I will, and as many more verses as you will to the back of it. *(winking at Talbot aside)* You shall have the credit of all. *(aloud)* Put me in when I'm out, Talbot, and you *(to Lord John)* join—join.

(Rory sings, and Lord John sings with him.)

'Then there's he with a purse that's as long as my 'arm,
'His father's a tanner, but then where's the harm?
'Heir to houses, and hunters, and horseponds in fee,
'Won't his skins sure soon buy him a pedigree.

'There's my lord, with the back that never was 'bent,'

(Lord J. stops singing—Talbot makes signs to Rory to stop, but Rory does not see him, and sings on.)

'There's my lord, with the back that never was 'bent,
'Let him live with his ancestors, I am content;'

(Rory pushes Lord J. and Talbot with his elbows.)

Rory. Join, join, both of ye—why don't you join? *(sings.)*

'Who'll buy my Lord John? the arch fish-woman cried,
'A nice oyster, shut up in a choice shell of pride.'

Rory. But join, or ye spoil all.

Tal. You have spoiled all indeed.

Lord J. (making a formal, low bow) Mr. Talbot, Lord John thanks you.

Rory. Lord John! Blood and thunder! I forgot you were by—quite and clean.

Lord J. (puts him aside, and continues speaking to Talbot) Lord John thanks you, Mr. Talbot. This is the second part of the caricatura. Lord John thanks you for these proofs of friendship. Lord John has reason to thank you, Mr. Talbot.

Rory. No reason in life now; don't be thanking so much for nothing in life, or if you must be thanking o' somebody, it's me you ought to thank.

Lord J. I ought, and do, sir, for unmasking one who——

Tal. (warmly) Unmasking my lord—

Rory. (holding them asunder) Phoo! phoo! phoo! be easy, can't ye—there's no unmasking at all in the case. My Lord

John, Talbot's writing the song was all a mistake.

Lord J. As much a mistake as your singing it, sir, I presume.

Rory. Just as much—'twas all a mistake. So now don't you go and make a mistake into a misunderstanding. It was I made every word of the song *out o'the face**—that about the back that never was bent, and the ancestors, and the oyster, and all. He did not write a word of it, upon my conscience. I wrote it all—tho' I'll engage you didn't think I could write such a good thing.

(Lord John turns away)

I'm telling you the truth, and not a word of a lie, yet you won't believe me.

Lord J. You will excuse me, sir, if I cannot believe two contradictory assertions within two minutes. Mr. Talbot, I thank you. *(going)*

[Rory tries to stop Lord John from going, but cannot—exit Lord John.

Rory. Well if he *will* go, let him go then, and much good may it do him—nay but don't you go too.

* From beginning to end.

Tal. O, Rory, what have you done!
(Talbot runs after Lord J.)
Hear me my Lord.
[*Exit Talbot.*

Rory. Hear him! hear him! hear him! Well, I'm point blank mad with myself for making this blunder; but how could I help it? As sure as ever I am meaning to do the best thing on earth, it turns out the worst!

(Enter a party of lads huzzaing)

Rory. (joins) Huzza! huzza! Who pray are ye huzzaing for?

1*st Boy.* Wheeler! Wheeler for ever! Huzza——

Rory. Talbot! Talbot for ever! Huzza! Captain Talbot for ever! Huzza!

2*d Boy.* *Captain* he'll never be, at least not to-morrow; for Lord John has just declared for Wheeler.

1*st Boy.* And that turns the scale.

Rory. O, the scale may turn back again.

3*d Boy.* Impossible! Lord John has just given his *promise* to Wheeler. I heard him with my own ears.

(Several speak at once.) And I heard him, and I!—and I!—and I!—Huzza! Wheeler for ever.

Rory. Oh murder! murder! murder! *(aside)* this goes to my heart! It's all my doing. O my poor Talbot! murder! murder! murder! But I won't let them see me cast down, and it is good to be huzzaing at all events. Huzza for Talbot! Talbot for ever! Huzza— [*Exit.*

Enter WHEELER *and* BURSAL.

Wheel. Who was that huzzaing for Talbot?

(Rory behind the scenes, 'Huzza for Talbot! Talbot for ever! Huzza.')

Burs. Phoo! it is only Rory O'Ryan, or the roaring lion, as I call him—Ha! ha! ha! Rory O'Ryan, alias roaring lion—that's a good one—put it about. Rory O'Ryan the roaring lion, ha! ha! ha! but you don't take it—you don't laugh, Wheeler.

Wheel. Ha! ha! ha! O, upon my honour I do laugh, ha! ha! ha! *(It is the hardest work to laugh at his wit)* Rory O'Ryan the roaring lion, ha! ha! ha! You know I always laugh, Bursal, at your jokes, he! he! he! ready to kill myself.

Burs. (sullenly) You are easily killed then, if that much laughing will do the business.

Wheel. (*coughing*) Just then—something—stuck in my throat—I beg your pardon.

Burs. (*still sullen*) O, you need not beg my pardon about the matter; I don't care whether you laugh or no—not I. Now you have got Lord John to declare for you, you are above laughing at my jokes, I suppose.

Wheel. No; upon my word and honour I *did* laugh.

Burs. (*aside*) A fig for your word and honour. (*aloud*) I know I'm of no consequence now. But you'll remember that if his lordship has the honour of making you captain, he must have the honour to pay for your captain's accoutrements; for I shan't pay the piper, I promise you, since I'm of no consequence.

Wheel. Of no consequence! but my dear Bursal, what could put that into your head? that's the strangest, oddest fancy—of no consequence! Bursal of no consequence! why every body that knows any thing, every body that has seen Bursal house, knows that you are of the greatest consequence, my dear Bursal.

Burs. (*taking out his watch, and opening it, looks at it*) No I'm of no consequence—I wonder that rascal Finsbury is not come

yet with the dresses. *(still looking at his watch.)*

Wheel. (aside) If Bursal takes it into his head not to lend me the money to pay for my captain's dress, what will become of me? For I have not a shilling—and Lord John won't pay for me— and Finsbury has orders not to leave the house, till he is paid by every body. What will become of me? *(bites his nails.)*

Burs. (aside) How I love to make him bite his nails! *(aloud)* I know I'm of no consequence. *(strikes his repeater.)*

Wheel. What a fine repeater that is of your's, Bursal! It is the best I ever heard.

Burs. So it well may be, for it cost a mint of money.

Wheel. No matter to you what any thing costs—happy dog as you are! you roll in money—and yet you talk of being of no consequence.

Burs. But I am not of half so much consequence as Lord John—am I?

Wheel. Are you? Why aren't you twice as rich as he?

Burs. Very true, but I'm not purse-proud.

Wheel. You purse-proud! I should never have thought of such a thing.

Burs. Nor I, if Talbot had not used the word.

Wheel. But Talbot thinks every body purse-proud, that has a purse.

Burs. (aside) Well, this Wheeler does put one into a good humour with one's self in spite of one's teeth. *(aloud)* Talbot says blunt things, but I don't think he's what you can call clever—hey, Wheeler ?

Wheel. Clever ! O, not he.

Burs. I think I could walk round him.

Wheel. To be sure you could—why do you know I've *quizzed* him famously myself within this quarter of an hour.

Burs. Indeed ! I wish I had been by.

Wheel. So do I faith. It was the best thing—I wanted, you see, to get him out of my way, that I might have the field clear for electioneering to day. So I bowls up to him with a long face—such a face as this—Mr. Talbot, do you know, I'm sorry to tell you, here's Jack Smith has just brought the news from Salt Hill—your mother in getting into the carriage, slipt, and has *broke* her leg, and there she's lying at a farm house, two miles off—is not it true, Jack ? said I. I saw the farmer helping her in with my own eyes, cried Jack. Off goes Talbot

like an arrow. *Quizzed* him by G—, said I.

Burs. Ha! ha! ha! quizzed him by G—, with all his cleverness—that was famously done.

Wheel. Ha! ha! ha! with all his cleverness, he will be all evening hunting for the farm house and the mother that has *broke* her leg. So he is out of our way.

Burs. But what need have you to want him out of your way, now Lord John has come over to your side? You have the thing so dead.

Wheel. Not so dead neither—for there's a great independent party, you know; and if *you* don't help me, Bursal, to canvass them, I shall be no captain. It is you I depend upon after all. Will you come and canvass them with me? Dear Bursal, pray—all depends upon you. *(pulls him by the arm—Bursal follows.)*

Burs. Well, if all depends upon me, I'll see what I can do for you. *(aside)* Then I am of some consequence—money makes a man of some consequence, I see—with some folk.

SCENE

*In the back scene, a flock of sheep are seen penned. In front, a party of country lads and lasses gaily dressed, as in sheep-shearing time, with ribbands and garlands of flowers, &c. are dancing and singing.**

* * * * *

* The young reader is requested to insert here any song suitable to the occasion. The author tried to write one; but, as she could not write one that pleased herself, she omitted it.

Enter PATTY, *dressed as the Queen of the festival—she has a lamb in her arms—the dancers break off when she comes in; and one exclaims——*

1*st Peasant.* O, here comes Patty! Here comes the queen o' the day. What has kept you from us so long, Patty?

2*d Peas.* *Please your Majesty*, you should say.

Patty. This poor little lamb of mine was what kept me so long. It strayed away from the rest; and I should have lost him, so I should, for ever, if it had not been for

a good young gentleman. Yonder he is, talking to farmer Hearty. That's the young gentleman, who pulled my lamb out of a ditch for me, into which he had fallen—Pretty creature!

1*st Peas.* Pretty creature, or your Majesty, which ever you choose to be called—come and dance with them, and I'll carry your lamb.

[*Exeunt singing and dancing.*

Enter FARMER HEARTY *and* TALBOT.

Farm. Why, young gentleman, I'm glad I happened to light upon you here, and so, to hinder you from going farther astray, and to set your heart at ease, like—

Tal. Thanks, good farmer; you have set my heart at ease, indeed: but the truth is, they did frighten me confoundedly. More fool I.

Farm. No fool at all, to my notion. I should, at your age, aye, or at my age, just the self same way, have been frighted myself, if so be that mention had been made to me, that way, of my own mother's having broke her leg, or so. And greater, by a great deal, the shame for them that frighted you, than for you to be frighted. How young

gentlemen, now, can bring themselves for to like to tell such lies, is to me, now, a matter of amazement, like, that I can't get over, no ways.

Tal. O, farmer, such lies are very witty, though you and I don't just now like the wit of them. This is fun, this is *quizzing;* but you don't know what we young gentlemen mean by *quizzing*.

Farm. Aye, but I do, though, to my cost, ever since last year. Look you, now, at yon fine field of wheat. Well, it was just as fine, and finer, last year, till a young Eton jackanapes——

Tal. Take care what you say, farmer; for *I* am a young Eton jackanapes.

Farm. No, but you be not the young Eton jackanapes, that I'm a thinking on—I tell you, it was this time last year, man; he was a horseback, I tell ye, mounted upon a fine bay hunter, out o' hunting, like.

Tal. I tell you, it was this time last year, man, that I was mounted upon a fine bay hunter, out a hunting.

Farm. Zooks! would you argufy a man out of his wits? You won't go for to tell me, that you are that impertinent little jackanapes.

Tal. No! no! I'll not tell you that I am an impertinent little jackanapes.

Farm. *(wiping his forehead)* Well, don't then, for I can't believe it; and you put me out. Where was I?

Tal. Mounted upon a fine bay hunter.

Farm. Aye, so he was. Here, *you*, says he, meaning me—open this gate for me. Now, if he had but a spoke me fair, I would not have gainsayed him; but he falls to swearing; so I bid him open the gate for himself. 'There's a bull behind you, farmer,' says he; I turns—'*Quizzed* him, by G—,' cries my jackanapes; and off he gallops him, through the very thick of my corn: but he got a fall leaping the ditch, out yonder, which pacified me, like, at the minute. So I goes up to see whether he was killed; but he was not a whit the worse for his tumble. So I should ha' fell into a passion with him then, to be sure, about my corn, but his horse had got such a terrible sprain, I couldn't say any thing to him, for I was a pitying the poor animal. As fine a hunter as ever you saw! I am *sar*tain sure he could never come to good after.

Tal. *(aside)* I *do* think, from the description, that this was Wheeler: and I

have paid for the horse, which he spoiled! *(aloud)* Should you know either the man or the horse again, if you were to see them, farmer?

Farm. Aye, that I should, to my dying day.

Tal. Will you come with me, then, and you'll do me some guineas worth of service.

Farm. Aye, that I will, with a deal of pleasure; for you be a civil spoken young gentleman, and, besides, I don't think the worse *on* you for being *frighted* a little about your mother; being what I might ha' been at your age, myself; for I had a mother myself once. So, lead on, master.

[*Exeunt.*

END OF THE SECOND ACT.

ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I.

The garden of the Windmill Inn, at Salt Hill.

MISS BURSAL, MRS. NEWINGTON, SALLY, *the chambermaid.*

Miss Bursal, very much dressed, is sitting on a garden stool, and leans her head against the Landlady, as if fainting. Sally holds a glass of water and a smelling bottle.

Miss Burs. Where am I? Where am I?

Landlady. At the Windmill at Salt Hill, young lady; and, ill or well, you can't be better.

Sally. Do you find yourself better since coming into the air, miss?

Miss Burs. Better! Oh, I shall never be better.

[*Leans her head on her hand, and rocks herself backwards and forwards.*

Landlady. My dear young lady, don't take on so. *(aside)* Now would I give

somewhat to know what it was my lady Piercefield said to the father, and what the father said to this one, and what's the matter at the bottom of affairs. Sally, did you hear any thing at the doors?

Sally. *(aside)* No, indeed, ma'am; I never *be's* at the doors.

Landlady. *(aside)* Simpleton! *(aloud)* But, my dear Miss Bursal, if I may be so bold, if you'd only disembosom your mind of what's on it—

Miss Burs. Disembosom my mind! Nonsense! I've nothing on my mind. Pray, leave me, madam.

Landlady. *(aside)* Madam, indeed! madam, forsooth! O, I'll make her pay for that. That *madam* shall go down in the bill, as sure as my name's Newington. *(aloud)* Well, I wish you better, ma'am. I suppose I'd best send your own servant?

Miss Burs. *(sullenly)* Yes, I suppose so. *(to Sally)* You need not wait, child, nor look so curious.

Sally. *Cur'ous!* Indeed, miss, if I look a little *cur'ous*, or so, *(looking at her dress)* 'tis only because I was *frighted* to see you take on, which made me forget my clean apron, when I came out; and this apron—

Miss Burs. Hush! hush! child: don't tell me about clean aprons, nor run on with your vulgar talk. Is there ever a seat one can set on in that *h*arbour yonder?

Sally. Oh, dear *'art*, yes, miss, 'tis the pleasantest *h*arbour on *h*earth. Be pleased to lean on my *h*arm, and you'll soon be there.

Miss Burs. (going) Then tell my woman she need not come to me, and let nobody *interude* on me—do ye *'ear? (aside)* O, what will become of me! and the Talbots will soon know it! and the ponies, and the curricle, and the vis-a-vis, what will become of them? and how shall I make my appearance at the Montem, or any *ware* else?

SCENE II.

LORD JOHN—WHEELER—BURSAL.

Wheel. Well, but my lord—well, but Bursal—though my lady Piercefield—though Miss Bursal is come to Salt Hill, you won't leave us all at sixes and sevens. What can we do without you?

Lord J. You can do very well without *me*.

Burs. You can do very well without *me*.

Wheel. *(to Burs.)* Impossible! impossible! you know Mr. Finsbury will be here just now, with the dresses; and we have to try them on.

Burs. And to pay for them.

Wheel. And to settle about the procession. And then, my lord, the election is to come on this evening; you won't go till that's over, as your lordship has *promised* me your lordship's vote and interest.

Lord J. My vote I promised you, Mr. Wheeler; but I said not a syllable about my *interest*. My friends, perhaps, have not been offended, though I have, by Mr. Talbot. I shall leave them to their own inclinations.

Burs. *(whistling)* Wheugh! wheugh! wheugh! Wheeler, the principal's nothing without the interest.

Wheel. O, the interest will go along with the principal, of course; for, I'm persuaded, if my lord leaves his friends to their inclinations, it will be the inclination of my lord's friends to vote as he does, if he says nothing to them to the contrary.

Lord J. I told you Mr. Wheeler, that I should leave them to themselves.

Burs. (still whistling) Well, I'll do my best to make that father of mine send me off to Oxford: I'm sure I'm fit to go—along with Wheeler. Why, you'd best be my tutor, Wheeler! a devilish good thought.

Wheel. An excellent thought!

Burs. And a cursed fine dust we should kick up at Oxford with your Montem money and all! Money's *the go*, after all. I wish it was come to my making you my last bow, 'ye distant spires, ye *antic* towers!'

Wheel. (aside to Lord J.) Ye *antic* towers! Fit for Oxford, my lord!

Lord J. Antique towers, I suppose, Mr. Bursal means.

Burs. Antique, to be sure! I said antique, did not I, Wheeler?

Wheel. O, yes.

Lord J. (aside) What a mean animal is this!

Enter RORY O'RYAN.

Rory. Why, now, what's become of Talbot, I want to know? There he is not to be found any where in the wide world; and

there's a hullaboloo amongst his friends for him.

[*Wheeler and Bursal wink at one another.*

Wheel. We know nothing of him.

Lord J. I have not the honour, sir, to be one of Mr. Talbot's friends. It is his own fault, and I am sorry for it.

Rory. Faith, so am I, especially as it is mine—fault I mean—and especially as the election is just going to come on.

Enter a party of boys, who cry, Finsbury's come! Finsbury's come with the dresses.

Wheel. Finsbury's come! O, let us see the dresses, and let us try 'em on to night.

Burs. (pushing the crowd) On with ye, on with ye, there! Let's try 'em on! Try 'em on! I'm to be colonel.

1st Boy. And I lieutenant.

2d Boy. And I ensign.

3d Boy. And I college salt-bearer.

4th Boy. And I oppident.

5th Boy. O, what a pity I'm in mourning!

Several speak at once. And we are servitors—we are to be the eight servitors.

Wheel. And I am to be your captain, I hope. Come on, my colonel. *(to Burs.)* My lord, you are coming?

Rory. By and by: I've a word in his ear, by your lave and his.

Burs. Why, what the devil stops the way, there? Push on—on with them.

6th Boy. I'm marshal.

Burs. On with ye, on with ye; who cares what you are?

Wheel. (to Bursal aside) You'll pay Finsbury for me, you rich jew? *(to Lord J.)* Your lordship will remember your lordship's promise.

Lord J. I do not usually forget my promises, sir; and therefore need not to be reminded of them.

Wheel. I beg pardon. I beg ten thousand pardons, my lord.

Burs. (taking him by the arm) Come on, man, and don't stand begging pardon there, or I'll leave you.

Wheel. (to Bursal) I beg pardon, Bursal, I beg pardon, ten thousand times.

[*Exeunt.*

Manent LORD JOHN, *and* RORY O'RYAN.

Rory. Wheugh! Now, put the case, if I was going to be hanged, for the life of me, I couldn't be after begging so many pardons for nothing at all. But many men, many

minds. *(hums)* True game to the last! No Wheeler, for me. O, murder! I forgot I was nigh letting the cat out o' the bag again.

Lord J. You had something to say to me, sir? I wait till your recollection returns.

Rory. Faith, and that's very kind of you; and if you had always done so, you would never have been offended with me, my lord.

Lord J. You are mistaken, Mr. O'Ryan, if you think, that you did, or could offend me.

Rory. Mistaken I was, then, sure enough: but we are all liable to mistakes, and should forget and forgive one another; that's the way to go through the world.

Lord J. You will go through the world your own way, Mr. O'Ryan, and allow me to go through it my way.

Rory. Very fair—fair enough—then we shan't cross. But now, to come to the point: I don't like to be making disagreeable retrospects, if I could any way avoid it; nor to be going about the bush, especially at this time a-day, when, as Mr. Finsbury's come, we've not so much time as we had, to lose. Is it true, then, my lord, the report that is going about this hour past,

that you have gone in a huff, and given your promise there to that sneaking Wheeler, to vote for him, now?

Lord. J. In answer to your question, sir, I am to inform you, that I *have* promised Mr. Wheeler to vote for him.

Rory. In a huff? Aye, now, there it is! Well, when a man's *mad*, to be sure, he's mad; and that's all that can be said about it. And I know, if I had been *mad* myself, I might have done a foolish thing as well as another. But now, my lord, that you are not mad?

Lord J. I protest, sir, I cannot understand you. In one word, sir, I'm neither mad nor a fool. Your most obedient.

(going angrily.)

Rory. (holding him) Take care now, you are going mad with me again. But, phoo! I like ye the better for being mad. I'm very often mad myself, and I would not give a potatoe for one that had never been mad in his life.

Lord J. (aside) He'll not be quiet, till he makes me knock him down.

Rory. Agh! agh! agh! I begin to guess whereabouts I am at last. *Mad*, in your country, I take it, means fit for Bedlam; but with us in Ireland, now, 'tis no such

thing. It means nothing in life but the being in a passion. Well, one comfort is, my lord, as you're a bit of a scholar, we have the latin proverb in our favour, '*Ira furor brevis est.*' Anger is short madness. The shorter the better, I think. So, my lord, to put an end to whatever of the kind you may have felt against poor Talbot, I'll assure you he's as innocent o' that unfortunate song as the babe unborn.

Lord J. It is rather late for Mr. Talbot to make apologies to me.

Rory. He make apologies! Not he, faith: he'd send me to Coventry, or, may be, to a worse place, did he but know I was condescending to make this bit of an explanation, unknown to him. But, upon my conscience, I've a regard for ye both, and don't like to see you go together by the ears. Now, look you, my lord; by this book, and all the books that were ever shut and opened, he never saw or heard of that unlucky song of mine, till I came out with it this morning.

Lord J. But you told me this morning, that it was he wrote it.

Rory. For that I take shame to myself, as it turned out; but it was only a *white* lie to sarve a friend, and make him cut a

dash with a new song at election time. But I've done for ever with white lies.

Lord J. (*walking about as if agitated*) I wish you had never begun with them, Mr. O'Ryan. This may be a good joke to you; but it is none to me or Talbot. So Talbot never wrote a word of the song?

Rory. Not a word, or syllable, good or bad.

Lord J. And I have given my promise to vote against him. He'll lose his election!

Rory. Not if you'll give me leave to speak to your friends, in your name.

Lord J. I have promised to leave them to themselves; and Wheeler, I am sure, has engaged them by this time.

Rory. Bless my body! I'll not stay prating here then.

[*Exit Rory.*

Lord J. (*follows*) But what can have become of Talbot? I have been too hasty for once in my life. Well, I shall suffer for it more than any body else; for I love Talbot, since he did not make the song, of which I hate to think.

[*Exit.*

SCENE.

A large hall in Eton College—A stair-case at the end—Eton lads dressed in their Montem dresses in the back scene—In front, WHEELER, *(dressed as Captain)* BURSAL, *and* FINSBURY.

Fins. I give you infinite credit, Mr. Wheeler, for this dress.

Burs. Infinite credit! Why, he'll have no objection to that, hey, Wheeler? But I thought Finsbury knew you too well, to give you credit for any thing.

Fins. You are pleased to be pleasant, sir. Mr. Wheeler knows, in that sense of the word, it is out of my power to give him credit, and I'm sure he would not ask it.

Wheel. (aside) O, Bursal, pay him; and I'll pay you to-morrow.

Burs. Now, if you weren't to be captain after all, Wheeler, what a pretty figure you'd cut! Ha! ha! ha! hey?

Wheel. O, I am as sure of being captain, as of being alive. *(aside)* Do pay for me, now, there's a good, dear fellow, before *they (looking back)* come up.

Burs. (aside) I love to make him lick the dust. *(aloud)* Hollo! Here's Finsbury

waiting to be paid, lads. *(to the lads who are in the back scene)* Who has paid and who has not paid I say?

[*The lads come forward, and several exclaim at once*—

I've paid! I've paid!

Enter LORD JOHN, *and* RORY O'RYAN.

Rory. O, King of Glory, how fine we are! Why, now, to look at ye all, one might fancy one's self at the play-house at once, or at a fancy ball in dear little Dublin. Come, strike up a dance.

Burs. Pshaw! Wherever you come, Rory O'Ryan, no one else can be heard. Who has paid, and who has not paid, I say?

Several boys exclaim. We've all paid.

1*st Boy.* I've not paid, but here's my money.

Several Boys. We have not paid, but here's our money.

6*th Boy.* Order, there! I am marshal. All that have paid, march off to the staircase, and take your seats there one by one: march.

[*As they march by, one by one, so as to display their dresses, Mr. Finsbury bows, and says*——

A thousand thanks, gentlemen—thank you, gentlemen—thanks, gentlemen. The finest sight ever I saw out of Lon'on.

Rory, as each lad passes, catches his arm, Are you a Talbot*ite*, or a Wheeler*ite?* To each who answers *A Wheelerite*, Rory replies, 'Phoo—dance off then—*Go to the devil and shake yourself.*'* Each who answers *A Talbotite*, Rory shakes by the hand violently, singing,

'Talbot, O, Talbot's the dog for Rory.'

When they have almost all passed, Lord John says, But where can Mr. Talbot be all this time?

Burs. Who knows? Who cares?

Wheel. A pretty electioneerer! *(aside to Bursal)* Finsbury's waiting to be paid.

Lord J. You don't wait for me, Mr. Finsbury. You know I have settled with you.

Fins. Yes, my lord, yes. Many thanks; and I have left your lordship's dress here, and every body's dress, I believe, as bespoke.

* This is the name of a country dance.

Burs. Here, Finsbury's the money for Wheeler, who, between you and I, is as poor as a rat.

Wheel. (affecting to laugh) Well, I hope I shall be as rich as a jew to-morrow.

[*Bursal counts money in an ostentatious manner into Finsbury's hand.*

Fins. A thousand thanks for all favours.

Rory. You'll be kind enough, to *lave* Mr. Talbot's dress with me, Mr. Finsbury; for I'm a friend.

Fins. Indubitably, sir; but the misfortune is—he! he! ha! Mr. Talbot, sir, has bespoke no dress. Your servant, gentlemen.

[*Exit Finsbury.*

Burs. So your friend, Mr. Talbot, could not afford to bespeak a dress. *(Bursal and Wheeler laugh insolently)* How comes that, I wonder?

Lord J. If I'm not mistaken, here comes Talbot, to answer for himself.

Rory. But who, in the name of St. Patrick, has he along with him?

Enter TALBOT, *and* LANDLORD.

Tal. Come in along with us, farmer Hearty—come in.

[*Whilst the farmer comes in, the boys, who were sitting on the stairs, rise and exclaim—*

Who have we here? what now? Come down, lads, here's more fun.

Rory. What's here, Talbot?

Tal. An honest farmer, and a good natured landlord, who *would* come here along with me to speak—

Farm. (interrupting) To speak the truth. [*strikes his stick on the ground.*

Landlord. (unbuttoning his waistcoat) But I am so hot, so short winded, that, *(panting and puffing)* that for the soul and body of me, I cannot say what I have got for to say.

Rory. Faith now the more short winded a story, the better, to my fancy.

Burs. Wheeler, what's the matter, man? you look as if your under jaw was broke.

Farm. The matter is, young gentlemen, that there was once upon a time a fine bay hunter.

Wheel. (squeezing up to Talbot aside) Don't expose me, don't let him tell—*(to the farmer)* I'll pay for the corn I spoiled. *(to the landlord)* I'll pay for the horse.

Farm. I does not want to be paid for my corn. The short of it is, young gentlemen,

this 'un here in the fine thing'embobs *(pointing to Wheeler)* is a shabby fellow: he went and spoiled farmer Newington's best hunter.

Landlord. (panting) Ruinationed him, ruinationed him.

Rory. But was that all the shabbiness? Now I might, or any of us might have had such an accident as that. I suppose he paid the gentleman for the horse; or will do so in good time.

Landlord. (holding his sides) O that I had but a little breath in this body o'mine to speak all—speak on farmer.

Farm. (striking his stick on the floor) Oons, sir, when a man's put out, he can't go on with his story.

Omnes. Be quiet, Rory—hush.

[*Rory puts his finger on his lips.*

Farm. Why, sir, I was a'going to tell you the shabbiness. Why, sir, he did not pay landlord here for the horse, but he goes and says to the landlord here, 'Mr. Talbot had your horse on the self same day, 'twas he did the damage, 'tis from he you must get your money.' So Mr. Talbot here, who is another guess sort of a gentleman (though he has not so fine a coat) would not see a man at a loss, that could not afford it, and not knowing which of 'em it was that spoiled the

horse, goes, when he finds the other would not pay a farthing, and pays all.

Rory. (rubbing his hands) There's Talbot for ye! And now gentlemen *(to Wheeler and Bursal)* you guess the *rason*, as I do I suppose, why he bespoke no dress: he had not money enough to be fine—and honest too. You are very fine, Mr. Wheeler, to do you justice.

Lord J. Pray, Mr. O'Ryan, let the farmer go on; he has more to say. How did you find out pray, my good friend, that it was not Talbot, who spoiled the horse? Speak loud enough, to be heard by every body.

Farm. Aye that I will. I say *(very loudly)* I say I saw *him* there *(pointing to Wheeler)* take the jump which strained the horse, and I'm ready to swear to it. Yet he let another pay; there's the shabbiness.

[A general groan from all the lads. Oh shabby Wheeler, shabby! I'll not vote for shabby Wheeler.

Lord J. (aside) Alas, I must vote for him.

RORY *sings.*

'True game to the last, no Wheeler for me,
'Talbot! O, Talbot's the dog for me.'

(Several voices join the chorus.)

Burs. Wheeler, if you are not chosen captain, you must see and pay me for the dress.

Wheel. I'm as poor as a rat.

Rory. O yes! O yes! hear ye! hear ye all manner of men. The election is now going to begin forthwith in the big field, and Rory O'Ryan holds the poll for Talbot. Talbot for ever, huzza!

[*Exit Rory, followed by the boys, who exclaim, Talbot for ever, huzza! The landlord and farmer join them.*

Lord J. Talbot, I'm glad you *are*, what I always thought you—I'm glad you did not write that odious song. I would not lose such a friend for all the songs in the world. Forgive me for my hastiness this morning—I've punished my self—I've promised to vote for Wheeler.

Tal. O, no matter whom you vote for, my lord, if you are still my friend, and if you know me to be yours.

(*They shake hands.*)

Lord J. I must not say, '*Huzza for Talbot.*'

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE

Windsor Terrace.

Lady Piercefield—Mrs. Talbot—Louisa—*and a little girl of six years old*, Lady Violetta, *daughter to Lady Piercefield.*

Violetta. (*looking at a paper which Louisa holds*) I like it *very* much.

Lady P. What is it that you like *very* much, Violetta?

Violet. You are not to know *yet*, mamma. It is—I may tell her that—it is a little drawing, that Louisa is doing for me. Louisa, I wish you would let me shew it to mamma.

Louisa. And welcome, my dear; it is only a sketch of *The Little Merchants*, a story which Violetta was reading, and she asked me to try to draw the pictures of the little merchants for her.

[*Whilst Lady P. looks at the drawing, Violetta says to Louisa—*

But are you in earnest, Louisa, about what you were saying to me just now? quite in earnest?

Louisa. Yes, in earnest—quite in earnest, my dear.

Violet. And may I ask mamma *now?*

Louisa. If you please, my dear.

Violet. *(runs to her mother)* Stoop down to me, mamma, I've something to whisper to you.

(Lady Piercefield stoops down. Violetta throws her arms round her mother's neck.)

Violet. *(aside to her mother)* Mamma, do you know—you know you want a governess for me.

Lady P. Yes, if I could find a good one.

Violet. *(aloud)* Stoop again, mamma, I've more to whisper. *(aside to her mother)* *She* says she will be my governess, if you please.

Lady P. *She!* who is *she?*

Violet. Louisa.

Lady P. *(patting Violetta's cheek)* You are a little fool; Miss Talbot is only playing with you.

Violet. No indeed, mamma, she is in earnest, are not you, Louisa? O, say yes.

Louisa. Yes.

Violet. *(claps her hands)* *Yes*, mamma, you hear *yes*.

Louisa. If Lady Piercefield will trust you to my care, I am persuaded that I should be much happier as your governess, my good little Violetta, than as an humble dependant of Miss Bursal's. *(aside to her mother)* You see, that, now I am put to the trial, I keep to my resolution, dear mother.

Mrs. Tal. Your ladyship would not be surprised at this offer of my Louisa's, if you had heard, as we have done within these few hours, of the loss of the East India ship in which almost our whole property was embarked.

Louisa. The Bombay Castle is wrecked.

Lady P. The *Bombay* Castle! I have the pleasure to tell you, that you are misinformed. It was the *Airly* Castle that was wrecked.

Louisa, and Mrs. Tal. Indeed!

Lady P. Yes. You may depend upon it —It was the *Airly* Castle, that was lost. You know I am just come from Portsmouth, where I went to meet my brother, Governor Morton, who came home with the last India fleet, and from whom I had the intelligence.

[*Here Violetta interrupts, to ask her mother for her nosegay. Lady P. gives it to her, and then goes on speaking.*

Lady P. They were in such haste, foolish people! to carry their news to London, that they mistook one castle for another. But do you know, that Mr. Bursal loses fifty thousand pounds, it is said, by the *Airly Castle.* When I told him she was lost, I thought he would have dropped down; however, I found he comforted himself afterwards with a

bottle of burgundy—but poor Miss Bursal has been in hysterics ever since.

Mrs. Tal. Poor girl! My Louisa, *you* did not fall into hysterics, when I told you of the loss of our whole fortune.

(Violetta during this dialogue has been seated on the ground making up a nosegay.)

Violet. (aside) Fall into hysterics! what are hysterics, I wonder?

Louisa. Miss Bursal is much to be pitied, for the loss of wealth will be the loss of happiness to her.

Lady P. It is to be hoped, that this loss may at least check the foolish pride and extravagance of young Bursal, who, as my son tells me——

(A cry of 'Huzza! Huzza!' behind the scenes.)

Enter LORD JOHN.

Lord J. (hastily) How d'ye do mother? Miss Talbot, I give you joy—

Lady P. Take breath, take breath.

Louisa. Is my brother—

Mrs. Tal. Here he is! Hark! Hark!

(A cry behind the scenes of 'Talbot and truth for ever! Huzza!')

Louisa. They are chairing him.

Lord J. Yes, they are chairing him, and he has been chosen for his honourable conduct, not for his electioneering skill; for, to do him justice, Coriolanus himself was not a worse electioneerer.

Enter RORY O'RYAN *and another Eton lad, carrying* TALBOT *in a chair, followed by a crowd of Eton lads.*

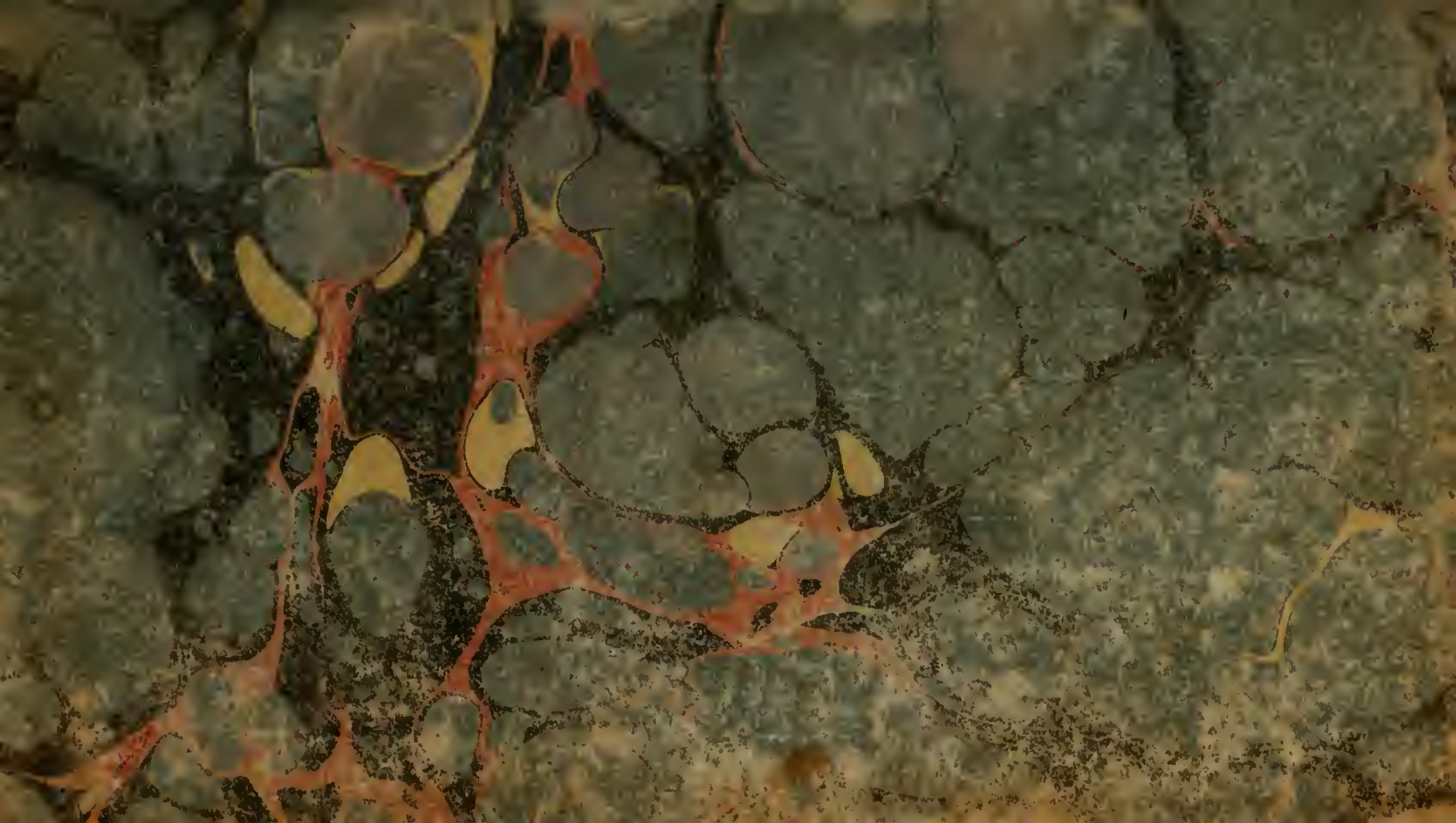
Rory. By your *lave*, my lord—by your *lave*, ladies.

Omnes. (*Huzza! Talbot and truth for ever, Huzza!*)

Tal. Set me down! there's my mother! there's my sister!

Rory. Easy, easy—set him down! No such *ting!* give him t'other huzza! there's nothing like a good, loud huzza in this world. Yes faith there is, for, as my Lord John said just now, out of some book, or his own head,

'One self-approving hour whole years outweighs
'Of stupid starers, and of loud huzzas.'

(*Curtain falls.*)

THE END.